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THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

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ART. I.—*American Medical Association. Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, held at Detroit, Mich., May 6 to 8, 1856.*

THE Association met at Fireman's Hall, in Detroit, at 11 o'clock A. M., Tuesday, May 6, 1856; and was called to order by the President, Dr. G. B. Wood, of Pennsylvania. Dr. D. Tilden, of Ohio, Vice-President, occupied a seat upon the platform. Dr. Wm. Brodie, of Detroit, Secretary.

Dr. Pitcher, of Michigan, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, said:—

MR. PRESIDENT: In the name of the Physicians of Michigan, who are here represented by delegates from their State, district, and more local societies, we welcome the members of the American Medical Association to the State and city of our adoption.

As children who have wandered from the family altar, to improve their fortunes in new and distant lands, would meet with bounding hearts the patriarch of their early home, so we, whose lot has been cast in the forests of the West, now greet with kind emotions the delegates from the old colonial States, hallowed in our memories by their revolutionary associations, honored for the elegance and durability of their seats of learning, and cherished as the home or the birthplace of many of the most brilliant and highly cultivated intellects in our national domain.

With a fraternal attachment no less ardent, we receive the members coming from those other States of the confederacy, which, like our own, have a position among the stars of the Union, but by the accident of birth are excluded from a place among the stripes of our national escutcheon.

And to our brethren who are here, by invitation, from the British Provinces in America, with whom, from a common ancestry, we have derived, by inheritance, our best and earliest ideas of civil liberty, much of our literature, and many of the practical precepts which regulate our art, we offer a like and cordial reception.

Although actively engaged in the battle of life, and earnestly struggling to overcome the obstacles which, in an undeveloped country, lie in the way of professional success, we have striven like the devoted Parsee to keep alive the fire which, in our youth, we kindled at the altars of those Magi who now come—not like the wise men of the East, under the guidance of a new risen star, by acts of devotion to celebrate the advent of a Messiah—but to receive from us, on this ground, from which the footprints of the savage have scarcely been erased by the ploughshare of the white man, where the echoes of the boat-song of the lively Gascon may still be heard between the

strokes of the paddle-wheel and the whistlings of the locomotive, the tokens of a sincere friendship, the acknowledgment of a legitimate paternity, and the homage due from filial and grateful hearts.

The student of our political history is well aware that, under the pressure of exterior force, we have been compelled, on five different occasions, to change our national colors, but never to abjure the faith of our political sires; so now, we intend steadfastly to stand by the true in medicine, under all the forms of temptation, as we will, under all the phases of political fanaticism, defend the ark of the covenant of our political fathers.

We pray that the meetings of this Association, though purely scientific in its aim, may be so conducted as to become instrumental in promoting these great ends.

Again, gentlemen, we bid you, from whatever land, or State, or section of the country you may have come, in the name of common brotherhood in science, a warm and cordial welcome.

The roll was then called by Dr. Wister, of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Dr. Thomson, of Delaware, a recess of fifteen minutes was taken to allow the delegates from the respective States to report one member from each State represented, as a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

At the expiration of the recess, the Association was called to order, and the different State delegations then reported their choice, respectively, of delegate to serve on the nominating committee, which was constituted as follows:—

Maine, N. P. Monroe; *New Hampshire*, H. Peirce; *Vermont*, C. L. Allen; *Massachusetts*, H. H. Childs; *Rhode Island*, J. E. Warren; *Connecticut*, David Harrison; *New York*, William Rockwell; *New Jersey*, L. A. Smith; *Pennsylvania*, John Neill; *Delaware*, J. W. Thomson; *Maryland*, P. Wroth; *South Carolina*, E. Geddings; *Tennessee*, J. B. Lindsley; *Kentucky*, W. L. Sutton; *Minnesota*, C. W. LeBoutillier; *Michigan*, M. Gunn; *Ohio*, Thos. W. Gordon; *Indiana*, Dr. Winton; *Illinois*, H. Noble; *Wisconsin*, W. H. Brisbane; *Iowa*, D. L. McGugin.

After the Nominating Committee had retired, Dr. Pitcher, of Michigan, from the Committee of Arrangements, submitted the following report:—

In conformity to the domestic and social usages of the place of meeting, the committee have to suggest that the sessions of the Association take place in accordance with the following plan, and that they commence and terminate each day at the hours designated therein:—

Tuesday—Morning session begins at 9 A. M. and ends at half past 12 M. Afternoon session begins at 2 P. M. and ends at 5 P. M.

Wednesday—Morning session begins at 9 A. M. and ends at half past 12 M. Afternoon no session.

Thursday—Morning session begins at 9 A. M. and ends at half past 12 M. Afternoon session begins at 2 and ends at 5 P. M.

Friday—Morning session begins at 9 o'clock A. M.

This arrangement of the hours of meeting and adjournment conforms, also, to the suggestions contained in the resolutions of Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois, and which were, on his motion, referred to this committee for their consideration by a vote of the Association. Regard for the mover of the resolutions and the authority of the body by which they were submitted to us, requires from the committee a respectful reply. Your committee, in view of the existing state of our professional literature, feel reluctant to advise a departure from the present mode of laboring to promote a higher degree of culture in those preparing to become members of the medical pro-

fession, and to establish in those already engaged in its duties a habit of recording the results of their observations. They think that the effects of such a change as is contemplated in the resolutions of Professor Davis, and the more amplified expression of his idea, contained in the address of the then President, Dr. Pope, of Missouri, delivered at Philadelphia, in 1855, can be easily foreseen. To a few who are gifted with colloquial powers, and to others who have undergone the discipline required to fit them for public debate, the interest of the meetings conducted upon the plan proposed in the resolutions would be greatly increased; but as the great body of the Association would, voluntarily, it is true, be excluded from the participation in those exercises, the enthusiasm which now characterizes our anniversaries would subside, and with it the professional *esprit du corps* which has been already developed through the instrumentality of the Association. We presume that the objects for which this organization was effected have not been lost sight of by the majority of its members. Neither can it be pretended that those purposes have been so far accomplished as to justify us in laying it aside, or of diverting it from its original design.

Your committee feel that the profession has no right to rail at the public for misappreciation of it, so long as we continue to admit men into its folds destitute of that knowledge, both in nature and degree, necessary to make a decent appearance in general society, or to fit a man for the more ordinary and less responsible pursuits of life. From the early records of the Association it appears that this conviction, on the part of the profession in the United States connected with the design of reforming, in certain particulars, the medical schools of our country, led to its organization in 1847, and until its mission in both respects has been accomplished, the committee would reluctantly recommend the adoption of any measure tending in their judgment to divert it from the design of its creation. Thus far the influence of the Association has gradually extended itself into the rank and file of the profession. It has increased the number of writers, given an impulse to the medical mind, and encouraged a useful and laborious class, gratified to observe, and willing to submit their observations to the public, because they can be incorporated into the body of the transactions without being subjected to a sifting criticism. It is true, that in this way, articles have been printed that did not always enure to the credit of the Association, but at the same time, and by that means, motion and fertility have been given to minds that would have lain fallow and unproductive, which the dread of the conspicuity belonging to a mental gymnasium would have driven into deeper obscurity. The committee, however, whilst they would resist any tendency to radicalism in their own opinions, cannot dismiss the subject without expressing their belief that, in order to secure the objects of our organization, it is as necessary to increase the breadth and depth of its base as to elevate the shaft designed to spring from it; for without such preparation, the superstructure, however beautiful in aspect, would be of transient duration.

Having arranged the hours for meeting and adjourning, so as to place it in the power of the Association to adopt or reject, without inconvenience, the proposition of Dr. Davis, the committee respectfully ask to be excused from submitting a distinct proposition on the subject.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements,

Z. FITCHER, *Chairman*.

The report was accepted.

The President announced the death of the eminent Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, Mass., in that city, on Sunday morning.

Dr. Childs, of Mass., felt compelled to say a few words in this connection. He had been associated with the deceased for more than half a century, and should feel that he had been derelict of duty if he neglected to speak in his

laudation. Dr. Warren was the nephew of Joseph Warren, who fell gloriously at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was at the head of his profession in Massachusetts—had been President of the State Medical Society, and occupant of other elevated medical positions. His professional reputation was high, and his personal reputation spotless. His fame was not confined to Massachusetts. Though devoted to medical science, he was not limited to that alone, but paid attention to every branch of literature and art. If young members of the profession would be useful and eminent, they should follow the example of Dr. John C. Warren. To the older, the speaker would point out Dr. W.'s moral character as an exemplar. Such a life as his, inevitably terminates in a death beatified by a surety of eternal happiness.

Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, made some remarks eulogistic of the deceased. He alluded to his high reputation—a reputation, he observed, not confined to America, but extending to every corner of the civilized world. Dr. Warren was the Nestor of American surgery. Dr. Gross concluded by offering the following:—

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of this Association at the loss of their late associate, Dr. John C. Warren.

The resolution was adopted, and the President appointed as such committee, Dr. Gross of Kentucky, Dr. Childs of Massachusetts, Dr. Wood of New York, Dr. Pitcher of Michigan, and Dr. Geddings of South Carolina.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President called the Association to order at 2 o'clock.

The Secretary read a letter, from Dr. Grafton Tyler, of the District of Columbia, one of the Vice-Presidents, excusing his absence.

He also read letters from the State Medical Society of Tennessee, and from the University of Nashville, inviting the Association to hold its next annual session at Nashville, Tennessee. Also, one tendering the use of the Hall of Representatives of that State for the purposes of said session.

On motion of Dr. Brodie, of Michigan, referred to Committee on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations submitted the following report:—

The Committee on Nominations unanimously nominate the following officers of the American Medical Association for the ensuing year:—

President—Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Detroit.

Vice-Presidents—Drs. Thomas W. Blatchford, of New York; William K. Bowling, of Tennessee; E. Geddings, of South Carolina; W. H. Brisbane, of Wisconsin.

Secretaries—Drs. Wm. Brodie, of Michigan; R. C. Foster, of Tennessee.

Treasurer—Dr. Casper Wistar, of Pennsylvania.

The report was accepted, and the nominations unanimously confirmed.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, the President was requested to deliver his annual address.

At the conclusion of the address, on motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be presented to our late Presi-

dent for the able and interesting parting address he has just delivered, and that he be requested to present to the Committee of Publication a copy, for preservation in our transactions.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to inform the President and Vice-Presidents elect of their election, and conduct them to their seats.

The President appointed, as such committee, Drs. Atlee, of Pa., Reeves, of Ohio, and Sutton, of Ky.

Upon taking the chair, Dr. Pitcher said:—

Although fully aware of my indebtedness, for this distinction, to your observance of a custom equivalent in force to positive law, of selecting your presiding officer, in each successive year, from the State in which the meeting of the Association is held, I feel myself more honored by your partiality, than if I had received the same mark of respect from any other body of men known to the annals of our country.

This sentiment of regard for the body towards which I now hold, by this act of yours, so delicate and interesting a relation, has been inspired by a contemplation of the ideal of the physician, and strengthened by my growing acquaintance with the individuals which compose it.

Being unaccustomed to presiding in deliberative assemblies, I shall throw myself upon the indulgence of the Association, and rely upon the kindness and intelligent co-operation of the individual members for assistance, in performing the duties of the chair.

Whilst thanking you most cordially for this expression of confidence, I can only assure you that such abilities as I possess shall be devoted to the prosperity of the Association and the harmony of its proceedings.

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Mich.,

Resolved, That the resolution passed at St. Louis, requiring a majority of the Committee on Publication to be appointed from residents of the place where the meeting is held, be repealed.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered the following:—

Whereas, The pleasure and satisfaction of attending the deliberations of this Association would be greatly enhanced, the duties of the secretaries and reporters facilitated, and order at the same time secured, by the observance of two things, to wit: first, that the audience be put in possession of the name and residence of the speaker; and, secondly, that they be enabled distinctly to hear what he has to say; therefore,

Resolved, That no one be permitted to address the Association, except he shall have first given his name and residence, which shall be distinctly announced from the chair, and the member be required to go forward and speak from the stand, and not more than ten minutes at one time.

A motion to lay on the table was lost. The resolution was then adopted.

At the request of Dr. Gross, of Ky., his report upon "The Causes that Retard Medical Education and Literature," was made the special order for Wednesday at 10 o'clock.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., from the Committee on Prize Essays and Volunteer Communications, submitted the following:—

"The Committee on Prize Essays and Volunteer Communications" report, that some months since they issued a card, which was extensively published in the medical journals, setting forth the terms upon which essays intended for prizes would be received; but that the number of papers presented has been but four.

By referring to the past records of the Association, it is found that the numbers received by preceding committees have been, in 1852, sixteen; in 1853, fifteen; in 1854, nine; in 1855, six; in 1856, four. Your committee beg leave to call attention to this almost regular and quite rapid decrease in the number of essays presented, for the purpose of having the Association consider whether there be not danger that the number which may hereafter be furnished will be so small as to afford insufficient range of comparison and choice to cause the preference shown to be much valued, if, indeed, presentations do not cease altogether, and whether any means should be devised for preventing such a result.

The essays received by your committee have been subjected to a careful examination; and while admitting that they all possess a degree of merit which would render them suggestive and useful, if given to the profession, still, in their opinion, but one manifests that evidence of careful and laborious investigation, that wide scope and rigid accuracy of logical reasoning, that chasteness of expression and artistic skill in the presentation of the subject, as to furnish sufficient claim for awarding a prize by this body.

But one prize is therefore awarded. The essay selected for this honor bears the title—"An Essay on the Arterial Circulation."

It is regarded by the committee as possessing the merits just alluded to, and while not wishing to give an unqualified endorsement of all the views which it contains, they regard it as possessing not only interest in its physiological and scientific relations, but also real value in its pathological and practical bearings.

The production has considerable length, and by the fulness with which the views advanced are discussed, it partakes as much of the nature of a treatise as an essay. It has at least one quality which Lord Bacon considered necessary to a treatise, as distinguished from an essay—it required a degree of leisure on the part of the writer, and will require the same on the part of the reader for him to appreciate its value.

The essay bears the motto—"Una est Veritas."

(Signed)

A. B. PALMER, *Chairman.*
SAMUEL DENTON,
SILAS H. DOUGLASS,
AB'N SAGER,
E. ANDREWS.

On breaking the seal of the accompanying packet, Dr. Henry Hartshorne, of Philadelphia, Pa., was found to be the successful essayist.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Blatchford, of N. Y., from the Committee on "Hydrophobia, and the Connection of the Season of the Year with its Prevalence," read a report thereon. The committee, in conclusion, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Secretary transmit to the Governor of each State a copy of the statistical part of this report, with the respectful request that he would bring the subject before the Legislature of the State over which he presides, that in their wisdom they may devise and unite upon a plan by which the evil may be mitigated, if not removed.

The Committee on Nominations reported in favor of holding the next annual meeting of the Association at Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., moved to strike out "Nashville, Tenn.," and insert "Louisville, Ky.," He thought Nashville at present difficult of access.

Dr. Geddings, of S. C., and Lindsley, of Tenn., advocated the adoption of the report.

Dr. Gross withdrew his amendment and the report was adopted.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., from the Committee on Publication, made the annual report. It states that the first copies of the *Transactions* of the last session of the Association were issued on the 10th of November, 1855; that 1,100 copies were printed; that the aggregate expense of printing, illustrating, and binding was \$1,922 70; that the distribution of the volume was effected, in every possible instance, by express; that Drs. C. Hooker of Ct., Alden March of Albany, J. L. Atlee of Pa., W. Brodie of Mich., C. B. Gibson of Richmond, E. L. Beadle of N. Y., H. W. Desaussure of S. C., C. A. Pope of Mo., D. H. Storer of Mass., T. G. Richardson of Ky., J. Maura of R. I., T. Miller of D. C., F. E. B. Hintz of Md., L. P. Bush of Del., Z. Pitcher of Mich., and J. B. Lindsley of Tenn., have rendered essential service to the Association—some in procuring subscriptions to the volume, and all by cordial co-operation in its distribution; that it is important to secure efficient co-operation in every State by the appointment of gentlemen whose duty it shall be to aid in procuring subscriptions for circulating the *Transactions*; that Connecticut is especially to be commended for her services in this particular; that not a little embarrassment was experienced by the committee in restoring to the list of permanent members, the names of those who had been left off by order of the Association for non-payment of assessments; that they had endeavored, however, by careful comparison of the various lists, to supply all omissions; that the committee had been reluctantly obliged to omit from the *Transactions* two valuable reports on epidemic diseases—by Dr. L. H. Anderson, of Ala., and Dr. E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans—but as they had not been presented to the Association, and acted on by that body, there was no other alternative; that the following resolution, passed at the last session, should be strictly enforced:—

Resolved, That hereafter, beginning with the session of 1856, no report, or other paper, shall be entitled to publication in the volume for the year in which it shall be presented to the Association, unless it be placed in the hands of the Committee of Publication or on before June 1st.

The report further states that the number of volumes of *Transactions* now remaining on hand is as follows: of Vol. I. 41, of Vol. II. 9, of Vol. III. 32, of Vol. IV. 7, of Vol. V. 316, of Vol. VI. 66, of Vol. VII. 120, of Vol. VIII. 351; that some of the leading journals abroad have expressed a strong desire to complete their sets, and it rests with the Association to determine whether the missing numbers shall be supplied; that, as only seven complete sets of the *Transactions* are now in the possession of the Association, the committee recommend that no copy of either of the eight volumes which is necessary to the complete sets now remaining shall be disposed of separately, or with any number of volumes of a complete set.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., made some remarks upon the report, in the course of which he stated that the Smithsonian Institution had been offered as a permanent place of session for the Association. He concluded by moving that the Committee on Publication preserve five complete sets of the proceedings. Carried.

Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia, moved to refer the nomination of Standing Committees to the Committee on Nominations. Carried.

The same gentleman made a request, in behalf of Dr. Hamilton, that the committee of which Dr. H. is chairman may be continued for another year, it not being prepared to report at present. Granted.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., stated that the Committee on Medical Literature was ready to report.

The President suggested that the reading of the report follow that of the report of Dr. Gross, which had been made the special order for Wednesday, at 10 A. M.

Dr. Palmer, of Chicago, stated that the Committee on Plan of Organization for State and County Medical Societies was ready to report.

Dr. Pomeroy, of N. Y. moved to reconsider the resolution requiring a member, when speaking, to stand upon the platform, and not to occupy more than ten minutes in his remarks. Lost.

Dr. Smith, of N. J., moved that that portion of the resolution requiring members, when speaking, to take the stand, be rescinded. Carried.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., moved to refer the prize essay of Dr. Hartshorne on Arterial Circulation, and the report of Dr. Blatchford on Hydrophobia, to the Committee on Publication. Carried.

Dr. Wistar, of Pa., the Treasurer, read his annual report. It recommends that the Treasurer be requested, at an early date after the adjournment of the present meeting, to address a circular to each permanent member, announcing the abrogation of the resolution of 1854—making a yearly subscription to the *Transactions* obligatory—and the consequent restoration to membership of all those dropped from the published list of that year—advertising, also, the practicability of procuring back numbers of the *Transactions*, with information as to the cost at which the series of volumes may be rendered complete, or an entire set furnished by the Association.

The account of the Treasurer with the Association is as follows:—

DR.

To cash paid Dr. John L. Atlee, of Committee on Washington Monument Stone	\$498 70
To cash paid C. B. Norton, for portorage and packing Vol. VII. in New York	8 00
To cash paid J. D. Trask, for Prize Essay	100 00
To cash paid for postage of Secretary	2 50
To cash paid D. C. Baxter, for engravings of Vol. VIII.	72 75
To cash paid for postage of Chairman of Publication Committee	4 09
To cash paid Thos. Sinclair & Co., for lithographs for Vol. VIII.	101 20
To cash paid T. K. & P. G. Collins for printing and binding 1,100 copies of Vol. VIII.	1,748 75
To cash paid T. K. & P. G. Collins for binding 25 copies Vol. VI. and printing notices	4 52
To cash paid H. Barnes for distribution of Vol. VIII. and services as clerk	50 00
To cash paid T. K. & P. G. Collins for printing notices	1 25
To cash paid Blanchard & Lea for freight, portorage, boxes, &c., for Vol. VIII.	34 99
To cash paid for postage, envelopes, and stationery of Treasurer	6 99
To balance	950 52
	<hr/> \$3,584 26

CR.

By cash received from Dr. Isaac Wood, being the balance in the Treasury April 30th, 1855	\$1,015 26
By cash received from Dr. Isaac Wood, being the balance in the Treasury of prize essay fund, April 30th, 1855	100 00
By cash received from assessment and the sale of <i>Transactions</i>	2,150 50
By cash received from Dr. E. L. Beadle for the sale of <i>Transactions</i>	12 00
By cash received from Dr. Wm. Brodie for do.	12 00
By cash received from Dr. A. March for do.	24 00
By cash received from Messrs. Blanchard & Lea for do.	102 50
By cash received from Dr. Chas. Hooker for do.	168 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,584 26

The correctness of this account is certified to by the proper committee.

The report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. McNulty, of the New York Academy of Medicine, offered a resolution, that a committee of one from each State be appointed by the Committee on Nominations, to prepare, and report to the Association during the present session, an address to the people of the United States, setting forth the strong claims the medical profession have on their respect, gratitude and confidence.

Dr. McNulty explained the purpose for which he offered the resolution. Many people, he said, had a prejudice against the medical profession for holding to the dignities of their calling, and entertained the idea that the science of medicine was a collection of absurdities and superstitions. He wanted to show clearly that this is not the fact, and, in this view, he thought the address proposed would have a beneficial effect.

Dr. Kittredge moved to amend the resolution by making it read that every member of the Association should take the stump and defend the cause.

After a few other remarks the resolution was withdrawn.

Dr. Gunn, of Mich., reported the following names of members by invitation: Dr. P. N. Curtis, of Tecumseh, Mich., proposed by Dr. M. A. Patterson, of Tecumseh; Dr. C. West, proposed by Dr. Z. Pitcher, of Detroit; Dr. James Bronson, of Newton Falls, Ohio, proposed by Dr. Thomas W. Gordon, delegate from the Ohio Medical Society; Dr. Benjamin Stanton, of Salem, Ohio, proposed by Dr. Geo. Mendenhall, of Cincinnati; Dr. Eames, of Ohio, proposed by Dr. Stockwell; Dr. N. K. Maniates, of Marshall, proposed by Dr. M. Gunn, of Detroit. The report was adopted.

The President read a communication from Dr. Stille, chairman of the committee appointed last year to consider the subject of extending the lectures of each chair in medical schools over a period of two years, stating that the views of medical institutions had as yet been imperfectly ascertained, and asking a continuance of the committee. Granted.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved that the Committee on Epidemics meet immediately after the adjournment. Agreed to.

The President read an invitation to the Association to attend the session of the American Association for the advancement of science, at Albany, in

August next—at which time, also, the Dudley Observatory will be inaugurated, and an address delivered by Hon. Edward Everett. The invitation was accepted.

The Association then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

The Association was called to order by the President, at 9 o'clock.

The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Dr. Wistar, of Pa., read the list of delegates who had registered their names since the last report.

The Secretary read communications from the following gentlemen, asking an extension of time in which to report upon the subjects named:—

Dr. A. J. Semmes, of N. Y.—“Coroners’ Inquests.”

Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, of Ky.—“Treatment of Cholera.”

Dr. D. M. Reese, of N. Y.—“Infant Mortality.”

Dr. E. R. Penslee, of Me.—“Inflammation, &c.”

Dr. J. W. Corson, of N. Y.—“The Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the Agencies which Influence it in Health and Disease.”

Dr. Mark Stephenson, of N. Y.—“The Treatment best adapted to each Variety of Cataract, with the Method of Operation, Place of Election, Time, Age, &c.”

Dr. Beech, of Mich.—“Medical Topography, and Epidemics.”

Dr. J. C. Hutchinson, of N. Y.—“The Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix Uteri.”

Referred to committee on nominations.

The Secretary announced that he had received the following resolution, adopted at the last meeting of the New York State Medical Society:—

Resolved, That the members of the American Medical Association be invited to attend the semi-centennial celebration of this society, which will occur on the first Tuesday of February, 1857.

The invitation was excepted.

The Secretary read the following communication, dated April 7, 1856, from the Secretary of the Ohio State Medical Society:—

SIR—At the annual meeting of this society, held in June last, at Zanesville, Ohio, the following resolutions were adopted, and I was directed to furnish you with a copy of the same:—

Resolved, That the resolution offered by Dr. Grant (a member of this society, but not at this or that time a practitioner of medicine, but a lawyer), at the last session of this society, viz: “That it is not derogatory to medical dignity, or inconsistent with medical honor, for medical gentlemen to take out a patent-right for surgical or mechanical instruments,” was offered at a time when many members had left for their homes, and is not, therefore, the sense of the society:

Resolved, That the said resolution is in direct opposition to the code of medical ethics adopted by this society; and, therefore, be it further

Resolved, That said resolution, offered by Dr. Grant, and adopted by the society, be and is hereby, rescinded.

The communication was ordered to be placed upon the minutes.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. Hamilton, of Buffalo, N. Y., transmitting the second part of a report upon Deformities after Fracture and Dislocations, and asking for a correction of the minutes of last session in regard thereto. Dr. H. also asked that he be permitted to incorporate, in a volume upon the subject he is preparing for publication, that portion of the report already published by the Association.

On motion of Dr. Brodie, of Mich., the minutes were amended.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., offered a resolution that the request of Dr. H., in regard to the publication of the report, be granted.

Dr. Lindsley, of Tenn., opposed the resolution. A similar request was denied at the session of the Association held at St. Louis.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., moved to refer the matter to a special committee. Carried.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Palmer, of Ill., Atlee, of Pa., and Hills, of Ohio.

The following gentlemen were admitted as members, by invitation, of the Association: Drs. Edward Cox and S. B. French, of Battle Creek, Mich., introduced by Dr. Gunn; Dr. O'Donohue, of Battle Creek, introduced by Dr. Coates; Dr. G. W. Carhartt, of Wayne, N. Y., introduced by Dr. Cone; Dr. S. A. Scott, of Woodstock, C. W., introduced by Dr. Stewart; Drs. E. R. Thornton, of Belleville, Mich., Holly, of Shiawassee, Mich., Foster, of Unadilla, Mich., and W. H. Stevens, of Mich., introduced by Dr. Denton; Dr. Thos. M. Franklin, of Lafayette, Ind., introduced by Dr. Rockwell.

Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, moved that those gentlemen from Canada, who are here by general invitation, be admitted in a body, and be requested to take seats on the platform during this morning's session. Carried.

The following gentlemen complied with the invitation.

Dr. E. M. Hodder, F. R. S. Eng., Prof. of Midwifery and Diseases of Children, Trinity College, Toronto.

Dr. J. H. Richardson, M. R. C. S. Eng., Examiner in Anatomy, University of Toronto.

Dr. Norman Bethune, M. R. C. S. Eng., Prof. of Anatomy, Trinity College, Toronto, C. W.

Dr. Worthy Haswell, M. R. C. S. of Eng.

Dr. A. K. Dewson, College Physicians and Surgeons, New York, Licentiate of Province of the Canadas.

Dr. Geo. Coatsworth, Medical Department University of Buffalo, Licentiate of Province of the Canadas.

Dr. John Tarquand—Woodstock, C. W.

In receiving them upon the platform, the President, Dr. Pitcher, said he was happy to be the instrument of celebrating the nuptials by which we effect a scientific reunion of the two members of the Anglo-Saxon race, which have so long been separated by the political relations having their origin in the separation of the American colonies from the English crown.

Dr. Hodder, in behalf of his Canadian brethren, thanked the Association for the courtesy and kindness extended to them.

Dr. Sutton, of Ky., offered a resolution that 1,000 copies of the address of the late President, Dr. Wood, be published. Adopted.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Lindsley, of Tenn.,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to prepare a suitable minute in reference to the death of our late Secretary, Dr. P. C. Gooch, of Richmond, Va., who fell a martyr while contending with the pestilence in Norfolk, in 1855.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Lindsley, of Tenn., Thomson, of Del., and Mendenhall, of Ohio.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., from committee appointed the day previous, reported the following preamble and resolutions relative to the death of Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from the scene of his earthly labors our late fellow-member, Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, formerly President of this Association, and for many years Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University;

And whereas, It is just and proper that, when a great and good man dies, his memory should be cherished by his fellow-citizens, and transmitted unimpaired to posterity for the encouragement of future ages; therefore,

Resolved, That this Association has learned with profound regret the news of an event which has deprived the American medical profession of one of its oldest, most useful, and most illustrious members—American surgery one of its greatest ornaments—science one of its best friends—and humanity one of its noblest benefactors.

Resolved, That the life of Dr. John C. Warren affords an example of a man who, notwithstanding the possession of ample riches, devoted himself, heart and soul, for upwards of half a century, to the cultivation and advancement of his profession, and to the good of the human race.

Resolved, That this Association deeply sympathizes with the family of Dr. Warren in their bereavement, and that the Secretary be requested to transmit to them a copy of these proceedings.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Gross, of Ky., read a report on "The Causes which impede the Progress of American Medical Literature." In conclusion, he submitted the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That this Association earnestly and respectfully recommends: 1st. The universal adoption, whenever practicable, by our schools, of American works, as text-books for their pupils. 2d. The discontinuance of the practice of editing foreign writing. 3d. A more independent course of the medical periodical press towards foreign productions, and a more liberal one towards American; and, 4th. A better and more efficient employment of the facts which are continually furnished by our public institutions, for the elucidation of the nature of diseases and accidents, and, indirectly, for the formation of an original, a vigorous, and an independent national medical literature.

Resolved, That we venerate the writings of the great medical men, past and present, of our country, and that we consider them as an important element of our national medical literature.

Resolved, That we shall always hail with pleasure any useful or valuable work emanating from the European press, and that we shall always extend to them a cordial welcome, as books of reference, to acquaint us with the progress of legitimate medicine abroad, and to enlighten us in regard to any new facts of which they may be the repositories.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, moved that the report and resolutions, as a whole, be adopted.

At the suggestion of a member, the question was divided. The report was adopted.

Upon the reading of the first resolution, a member proposed to substitute "just" for "liberal" in line 8. Dr. Gross accepted the amendment.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., wished to understand the meaning of the word "practicable," as employed in the resolution (line 3). If it meant that an inferior work by an American author was to be used in our medical schools, in preference to a superior one, treating of the same subject, by a foreign author, he was decidedly opposed to the resolution. If, when the American work is equal or superior to the foreign one, it is to be used, then he had no objection. He alluded to works by eminent English and French authors.

Dr. Gross explained. One of the works alluded to by Dr. P., must of necessity be used in our medical institutions of learning, as there is no work by an American author on the same subject. Foreign works should be used as books of reference, and American books, "when practicable," as text-books.

Dr. Yandell, of Ky., moved that the resolutions be made the special order for Thursday morning. Lost.

Dr. Cobb, of N. Y., was opposed to the resolutions. If adopted and sent out to the world—they savor too much of know-nothingism to make them palatable.

Dr. Leidy, of Pa., was in favor of leaving to teachers of medicine the selection of their own text-books.

Dr. Davis understood there was another report touching upon the subject—that upon "American Medical Literature," by Dr. Breckenridge of Ky. He moved to lay the resolutions upon the table until that report was read. Carried.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. P. A. Jewett, of Conn., chairman of the Committee to Procure Memoirs of the Eminent Worthy Dead. Referred to Committee on Nominations.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., read a report upon American Medical Literature.

On motion of Dr. Hooker, it was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Association then adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock.

The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

A communication from Dr. Wroth, of Md., relative to a report upon the Medical Topography of the eastern shore of Maryland, and one from Dr. Thomson, of Ky., relative to a report on "Chloroform," were referred to the Committee on Nominations.

The Secretary read a letter from E. S. Lemoine, of St. Louis, inclosing an autograph letter from M. Dubois.

The Secretary read a communication from J. C. Holmes, Esq., the Secretary of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, presenting to the Associa-

tion twenty-five copies of the *Transactions* of the Society for 1853, and also the same number of the *Transactions* for 1854.

Dr. Brodie, of Mich., moved that the thanks of the Association be returned therefor, and that one copy be presented to each State represented. Carried.

On motion, Dr. McGugin, of Iowa, was appointed a member from that State of the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

Resolved, That the President shall be authorized annually to appoint delegates to represent this Association, at the meetings of the British Association, the American Medical Society of Paris, and such other scientific bodies in Europe as may be affiliated with us. Adopted.

Dr. Gluck, of New York, offered the following:—

Whereas, During the present year a medical congress is to be held in Europe; therefore,

Resolved, That the American Medical Association send to that congress four delegates, representing the four sections of the Union.

Dr. Davis, of Ill., thought it might be necessary and proper to send a greater number than four. He moved to lay the resolution on the table. Carried.

Dr. Clendenin offered the following:—

Resolved, That a committee of one be appointed for a period of three years, with instructions to report progress at each annual meeting of this Society, to investigate the etiology and pathology of epidemic cholera, and that said committee be allowed to add any other members to the same which they think may be necessary to further the objects of the appointment.

On motion, referred to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Mendenhall of Ohio,

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to strike the name of C. H. Cleveland from the list of permanent members of this Association.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa.,

Resolved, That the name of James McClintock be stricken from the list of permanent members.

These expelled members were accused by the movers of the resolutions of having retrograded into quackery.

On motion of Dr. Bissell, of New York,

Resolved, That this Association has learned with deep regret the death of one of its members, Dr. Theodorice Romeyn Beck, of Albany, N. Y., whose whole life has been devoted to the attainment and promotion of medicine and general science, and that we do hereby express our high appreciation of the excellencies of his character, distinguished by its simplicity, integrity, and firmness of purpose, and by the extent and variety of his acquirements in medical as well as in almost every other department of science.

Resolved, That the above resolution be referred to the Committee to Procure Memorials of the Eminent Worthy Dead, and that they be requested to procure a memoir of the late Dr. Beck, to be published in the *Transactions* of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of N. Y., laid on the table.

Dr. Gunn, of Mich., reported the following members present by invitation: Dr. Ashley, of Ypsilanti, Mich.; introduced by Dr. Brodie. Dr. H. F. Ewers,

of Union, Mich.; introduced by Dr. B. White, of Saginaw. Dr. Alex. Ewing, of Dexter, Mich.; introduced by Dr. Denton. Dr. Reynall, of Dansville, N. Y.; introduced by Dr. N. W. Ely. Dr. G. F. McCarthy, of Ind.; introduced by Dr. Davis. Dr. M. H. Andrews, of Jonesville, Mich.; introduced by Dr. Cone. Dr. J. R. Coates, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; introduced by Dr. S. Barrett. Dr. W. H. Stebbins, of Saline, Mich.; introduced by Dr. Denton. Dr. D. L. Briggs, of St. Joseph County, Mich.; introduced by Dr. Robinson.

Dr. Wister, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the invitation to gentlemen of the medical profession of Canada, extended to them by the American Medical Association at its session in Philadelphia, be renewed for the meeting at Nashville, Tenn.; and that this Association may be safe from the introduction of unsuitable persons, it is recommended that gentlemen presenting themselves from the Province of Canada should be provided with a letter of introduction to this Association from one of the following gentlemen: Drs. Tarquand, A. Scott, Woodstock, Canada; Drs. Hodder, Bethune, Richardson, Bonell, Haswell, Widmer, Beaumont, Herrick, of Toronto; Drs. O'Reilly, Craiggie, Duggan, of Hamilton; Dr. Sampson, of Kingston.

Dr. Gunn, of the Committee of Arrangements, stated, that as several delegates from the east had manifested a desire to go to Buffalo on the magnificent steamer *Western World*, of the Michigan Central Railroad line, the agent had kindly acceded to a request to sail her for Buffalo on Friday (in advance of her regular time), if a specified number would take passage.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, offered the following:—

Whereas, It has pleased an All-wise, but Inscrutable Providence, to visit the city of Norfolk, Va., and vicinity, with a desolating pestilence, equal, or surpassing, any recorded in ancient or modern times, and by which, in a few weeks, forty physicians, either residents or those from abroad, who had promptly rushed to the rescue, among the number of whom was our late Secretary and associate, Dr. Gooch, of Richmond—has been swept away, therefore,

Resolved, That such an instance of signal and unflinching devotion to the cause of science and of humanity demands at the hands of this national association a passing expression of their high admiration of this, another memorable instance of the unparalleled sacrifices of the profession to the interests of the healing art and of the race.

Resolved, That this minute be incorporated in our *Transactions*. Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill., Rt. Rev. Samuel A. McCoskry, Episcopal Bishop of this diocese, was invited to a seat upon the platform.

The like courtesy was extended to Dr. Mussey, formerly President of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Sheets,

Resolved, That it is derogatory to the dignity of the medical profession to notice the works of irregular practitioners in our medical periodicals.

Dr. Frost, of S. C., objected to the introduction of resolutions. He thought it irregular. Reports were the order.

Dr. Davis, of Ill., moved that reports be made the special order. Carried.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the last vote, in order to take up the resolutions attached to the report of Dr. Gross, of Ky., upon the "Causes which Retard American Medical Literature." Carried.

The resolutions were taken up. The question being upon their adoption. Dr. Gross read extracts from his report, explained the intent of the resolutions, insisted upon their necessity, and advocated their adoption.

Dr. Davis, of Ill., was opposed to adopting any report. There were now before the Association two reports (the one by Dr. Gross, of Ky., and one by Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky.), presenting directly adverse views. He thought both should be accepted and referred to the proper committee—nothing more.

Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., said the point at issue is—whether the Association will favor the sectionalism or the universality of medicine. If Dr. Gross's report and resolutions are adopted we decided in favor of the former.

Dr. Cobb, of N. Y., foresaw the difficulty that would arise in adopting Dr. Gross's report the day previous.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the vote by which the report was adopted. Carried.

He then moved that the report be accepted. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa., the report and resolutions of Dr. Gross, and the report of Dr. Breckenridge, upon "American Medical Literature," were referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., from special committee to which was referred the communication of Dr. Hamilton, reported the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That leave be granted to Dr. F. H. Hamilton to make use of the materials of his report on "Deformities after Fractures," which is in course of publication by this association, in his anticipated work upon "Fractures and Dislocations," provided the same shall not be used till after the publication of the *Transactions*.

Dr. A. B. Palmer, Professor in the Michigan University, from the Committee on Plans of Organization for State and County Medical Societies, presented a lengthened and able report, containing numerous useful suggestions, with outlines for the proper organization of local societies, and a series of resolutions in accordance with the views enforced in the report. Accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion, the resolutions were temporarily laid on the table for further action by the Convention.

Dr. Davis, of Illinois, chairman of special committee, reported on "The Changes in the Composition and Properties of the Milk of the Human Female, Produced by Menstruation and Pregnancy," in a paper containing numerous valuable details of much interest to the profession and the public, obtained by careful examination and comparison, and showing conclusively the ill effects of lactation, especially during the latter of the periods referred to. Accepted, and referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Charles Q. Chandler, of Missouri, who was to report on "Malignant Periodic Fevers," submitted, as a substitute, through Secretary Brodie, a paper on "Sulphate of Cinchona," which was received as a "voluntary contribution," and referred to a special committee.

Dr. Johnson, of Chicago, asked further time to report on "Excretions, &c." Referred to Committee on Nominations.

Dr. J. M. Newman, of Buffalo, from Committee on "the Sanitary Police of Cities," presented an elaborate report, embracing details of the various estimated causes of disease in cities, as compared with rural localities, together with numerous valuable statistics of mortality in the largest cities of Europe and the Union, of which the Doctor, at the request of the Association, gave a brief, verbal abstract. The report evidently embodies a vast mass of useful information, with deductions from it that city life is inimical to health and longevity, and arguments enforcing the urgent necessity for ameliorating the sanitary condition of the populous localities of cities and large towns. Of diseases arising from impure air and insufficient ventilation, classed under the term "zymotic," the report stated that, in 1850, 40 per cent. of all the deaths in the various cities were of that nature. The report also embodied details of the loss of life from cholera, smallpox, &c., giving startling expositions of danger from these sources, and recommends the enactment of laws for compulsory ventilation and cleanliness, as well as for vaccination, &c. Accepted, and referred to Committee on Publication.

The President here requested such delegates as would prefer to take passage, on their return, on the Michigan Central Railroad Company's steamer Western World, for Buffalo, which leaves to-morrow at 12 M., to signify their wishes.

Adjourned to 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met at 2 o'clock.

Dr. Frost, of Charleston, S. C., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due to the retiring officers for the zealous and efficient manner in which their duties have been performed; to our late President, for the courtesy and ability with which he has presided over our deliberations; to all the officers, for their attention to the laborious duties of their stations—not excepting our Committee on Publication, to whom we must feel indebted for the satisfactory form in which the volume of the *Transactions* appears.

Dr. A. J. Fuller, of Me., Chairman of the Committee on the Best Treatment of Cholera Infantum, read a report thereon, in which he stated that the pathology of the disease was little understood, and that physicians should interchange views on the subject.

The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Green, of N. Y., Chairman of the Committee on the Use and Effects of Application of Nitrate of Silver to the Throat, read a report thereon. He asserted that great benefits had been derived from topical medication in thoracic diseases—tuberculosis, bronchitis, &c. The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Flint, of Louisville, Chairman of the Committee on the Best Mode of Rendering the Medical Patronage of the National Government Tributary to the Honor and Improvement of the Profession, read a report thereon. He

denounced the granting of patents by the United States government to "quack medicines"—stating, however, that it appears, from a letter written by the present Commissioner of Patents, that the practice of the office has been to discourage such a use of its functions, and that, during the past fifteen years, but four or five such patents have been granted, although from twenty to thirty applications therefor have been made per year. The credit of sanitary improvements, Dr. F. said, were not due to individuals, but to medical science. Such improvements are never discoveries or revelations, but inductions. The United States government should aid the great cause of medical science by making appropriations for the publication of the *Transactions* of the National Association, and by paying prizes for the best essays on subjects selected by that Association. The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Committee on Nominations made their report.

The President stated that Dr. Anderson, of Ala., chairman of Committee on Medical Education, had sent in his report. It was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Wroth, of Md., on the Medical Topography and Epidemics of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Cain, of S. C., on the Epidemic of Yellow Fever in Charleston in 1854, was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report from Dr. Fenner, of La., on the Medical Topography and Epidemics of Louisiana, was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Secretary Brodie stated that he had received a letter from Dr. Dillard, U. S. N., appointed on the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics, saying that he could not act, in consequence of having received no appointment as delegate to the Association from the Surgeon General.

Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, said three communications had been handed to the Committee of Arrangements by the Secretaries, which they (the Committee) had not time to examine. He asked that a special committee be appointed to report on volunteer communications.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the volunteer communications in the hands of the Committee of Arrangements be referred, with all other such communications, to a special committee to be appointed by the Chair, residing at the place of publication of the *Transactions*; and if, in their judgment, the papers are worthy, they be referred by them to the Committee on Publication, to go into the *Transactions* of the Association.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. A. Stillé, S. Jackson, and J. B. Biddle.

The authors and titles of the volunteer communications were announced by Secretary Brodie as follows:—

By Dr. C. Q. Chandler, of Rochepport, Mo., on Sulph. Cinchona in Periodic Diseases.

By Dr. Isidor Gluck, of New York, on Formation of Gun-shot Wounds, &c.
By Dr. G. P. Flachenberg, on an Improved Method of Applying Compression to the Scrotum.

A member of the Committee on a Uniform System of Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, stated that they were unable to make a report at present, in consequence of the death of their chairman, Dr. Wilson, of Conn.

The Committee on Medical Literature, for 1855, was continued for another year.

Dr. Dorsey, of Ohio, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, by the American Medical Association, That the Committee on the Etiology and Pathology of Cholera be instructed to memorialize the Congress of the United States, requesting that honorable body to grant every necessary assistance which can or will promote the objects for which the Committee has been appointed.

Secretary Brodie read a communication from the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of England, thanking the American Medical Association for their present of the eight volumes of their *Transactions*. Ordered placed on file.

Dr. Wistar, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, to correspond with the proper officer of the Smithsonian Institute, inquiring into the possibility of procuring a chamber in that institution, for the uses of this Association.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Wistar, of Pa., Hall, of Washington, and J. Neill, of Pa.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered the following, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Fire Department of the city of Detroit, for the gratuitous use of their large and commodious hall, so amply furnishing to us accommodation for the convenient transaction of business.

Resolved, That the urbane deportment and elegant hospitalities of the profession and of private individuals, as well as the polite attentions of citizens generally, demand of this Association a high appreciation of the cultivated manners of this city of the west, and which has tended greatly to enhance the pleasure of the session here of the delegates from abroad.

The Association adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

LAST DAY.

The Association was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock.

The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Dr. Palmer, of Ill., moved that Dr. Coolidge, U. S. A., be substituted in the place of Dr. Finley, U. S. A., as a member of the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics. Dr. P. said he made the motion by request. Carried.

The following additional members (present by invitation) were reported: Dr. Sanders, of Monroe, Mich., introduced by Dr. Rice; Dr. R. K. Rodgers, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., introduced by Dr. Brodie; Dr. Dwight Nims, Calhoun County, Mich., introduced by Dr. Gunn.

Dr. Atlee, of Pa., offered the following, which was adopted :—

Resolved, That all voluntary communications hereafter presented to the Association shall be referred to a special committee, to be appointed by the President on the first day of each annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to examine such communications and report upon the propriety of their presentation and reference to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Lindsley, of Tenn., from the special committee appointed the day previous, reported the following preamble and resolutions :—

Whereas, The exhibition of high courage and of self-sacrificing devotion to the good of others is ever honorable to a profession by whose members it is manifested, and worthy of their remembrance and emulation ; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of P. Claiborne Gooch, of Richmond, Va., who nobly volunteered his services during the pestilence at Norfolk, we recognize a loss to this Association, the profession, and the country. His arduous and successful labors as secretary of the meetings at Charleston and Richmond merited the regard of this Association. The zeal, ability, and industry manifested by him as founder and editor of the *Stethoscope*—the first medical periodical established in the State of Virginia—showed his devotion to the cause of medical progress and activity, and the manner of his death gave signal evidence that he was one of whom his country might well be proud.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Secretary to the relatives of the late Dr. Gooch.

The resolutions were adopted, and had the usual reference.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill.,

Resolved, That the Committee on Registration have leave now to present a partial report, which is hereby referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Denton, of Mich., offered the following :—

Resolved, That a committee of three shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to enlist some enterprising publisher to aid in collecting and arranging material for an American Medical Directory.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of N. Y., laid on the table.

Dr. Leidy, of Pa., offered the following :—

Whereas, It is the object of this Association, in the award of prizes for communications on subjects appertaining to medical science, to encourage the progress of the latter ; and as this result cannot be better attained than through original investigation and discovery—

Resolved, That hereafter an annual prize of ——— dollars be awarded for the best memoir or essay founded on original investigations of the author ; and in case of no memoir or essay being presented worthy of such award, the prize money to be appropriated towards the expense of publishing and illustrating such memoirs as may be subsequently deemed worthy of an award.

The resolutions, together with the suggestions of the Committee on Prize Essays, as to whether any means can be devised to cause an increase of the number of essays presented, were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Drs. Leidy, Wood, and C. D. Meigs, of Pa.

The Secretary read an invitation to the Association to attend the next annual meeting of the Massachusetts State Medical Association. Accepted.

Dr. R. K. Smith offered the following :—

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to report to the next

meeting of the American Medical Association a classification of those diseases which involve a derangement of the mental manifestations.

Adopted, and Dr. Smith appointed chairman of said committee with power to choose his associates.

On motion of Dr. Atlee,

Resolved, That the Committee on Publication be requested to transmit annually to the Epidemiological Society of London, a copy of our *Transactions*.

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Mich.,

Resolved, That any new medical institution not heretofore represented in this body be required to transmit to the Secretary, with the credentials of its delegates, evidence of its existence, capacity, and good standing. Approved.

Dr. Phelps, of N. Y., offered a preamble and resolution relative to the relation existing between medicine and religion. Laid on the table.

Dr. McGugin offered the following:—

Resolved, That a Special Committee be appointed to report on the subject of "Stomatitis Materna."

Adopted, and Dr. McGugin appointed chairman of such committee.

On motion of Dr. Bailly, of Ill., Dr. Davis, of Chicago, was requested to continue his observation on the changes produced in the composition and qualities of milk by pregnancy and menstruation; also the best substitute for the mother's milk when weaning becomes necessary; and report at the next meeting of the Association.

A report from the Committee on Railroads, &c., was read, and the same committee continued to the next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Smith, of N. J., the resolutions of Dr. Palmer, offered the day previous, were taken from the table and referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, of Pa., the thanks of the Association were returned to those railroads that had evinced a liberality in conveying delegates to and from the Association.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Ill.,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be presented to the press of the city of Detroit, who have taken so much interest in reporting the proceedings of this meeting.

The Association then adjourned to meet in Nashville, Tenn., in 1857.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

Proposed amendments to the constitution being in order, Dr. Smith moved that the proposition to amend by providing that "any member who omits to pay for the published *Transactions* for three successive years shall be considered as withdrawn," be laid upon the table until the next annual meeting of the Association. Carried.

Dr. Bloodgood, of Ill., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the constitution of this Association be so amended as that hereafter the President shall be elected by ballot, and shall not be resident of the State in which he is elected.

Dr. Stocker, of Pa., offered the following amendments to the constitution:—

Amend article 3 so that it shall read: "Article 3. The regular meetings of the Associations shall be held annually, and commence on the first Tuesday of May. The Association shall meet biennially in the city of—. The place of meeting for the intermediate year shall be determined by a vote of the Association."

Amend article 4 by providing for one permanent and two assistant secretaries, and also specifying the duties, &c., of each.

Laid on the table under the rule.

Dr. Dorsey, of Ohio, offered the following:—

Resolved, That in May, 1858, and every third year thereafter, this Association meet at Washington City, and that the present officers be requested to correspond with the Board of Managers of the Smithsonian Institute, in regard to furnishing necessary rooms for the keeping of the archives of the Association.

Laid on the table under the rule.

Report of the Committee on Nominations.

The Nominating Committee beg leave to make the following report:—

For Chairmen of Special Committees for 1857:

Dr. E. R. Peaslee, of Brunswick, Me., on Inflammation, its Pathology and its Relation to the Recuperative Process.

Dr. J. C. Hutchinson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Charles E. Isaacs, of New York city, on the Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix Uteri.

Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, of Augusta, Ky., on the Treatment of Cholera.

Dr. Mark Stephenson, of N. Y., on the Treatment best adapted to each Variety of Cataract, with the Method of Operation. Place of Election, Time, Age, &c.

Dr. J. W. Corson, of N. Y., on the Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the Agencies which Influence it in Health and Disease.

Dr. D. Meredith Reese, of N. Y., on the Causes of Infant Mortality in Large Cities, the Source of its Increase, and the Means for its Diminution.

Dr. J. Foster Jenkins of Yonkers, N. Y., on Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage of the Newly Born.

Dr. Henry Carpenter, of Lancaster, Pa., on the Use of Instruments in Obstetrical Practice.

Dr. Alex. J. Semmes, of Washington, D. C., on the Measures to be Adopted to Remedy the Evils Existing in the Present Mode of Holding Coroner's Inquests.

Dr. J. Marion Sims, of New York city, on the Treatment of the Results of Obstructed Labor.

Dr. J. B. Flint, of Louisville, Ky., on the True Position and Value of Operative Surgery as a Therapeutic Agent.

Dr. G. Volney Dorsey, of Piqua, Ohio, on the Causes and Cure of Indigestion, especially in Relation to the Therapeutic Indications to be derived from the Chemical Composition of the Deposits in the Urine.

Dr. C. B. Coventry, of Utica, N. Y., on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, and the Testimony of Skilled Witnesses in Courts of Justice.

Dr. Jos. Leidy, of Philadelphia, Pa., on Human, Animal, and Vegetable Parasites.

Dr. M. D. Darnall, of Brainbridge, Ind., on the Value of a Strict Attention to Position in the Treatment of Diseases of the Abdomen.

Dr. George Sutton, of Aurora, Ind., on Milk Sickness.

Dr. Clark J. Pease, of Janesville, Wis., on the Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever.

Dr. B. S. Woodsworth, of Fort Wayne, Ind., on the best Substitute for Cinchona and its Preparations in the Treatment of Intermittent Fever and Malarious Neuralgia.

Dr. Franklin Hinkle, of Marietta, Pa., on the Use of Cinchona in Malarious Diseases.

Dr. Henry V. Campbell, of Augusta, Ga., on the Nervous System in Febrile Diseases.

Dr. John Neill, of Philadelphia, Penn., on the Laws Governing the Deposit of Bone.

Dr. John W. Greene, of N. Y. city, on the Intimate Effects of Certain Toxicological Agents in the Animal Tissues and Fluids.

Dr. George Suckley, U. S. A., on the Medical Topography and Fauna of Washington Territory.

Dr. Jas. Cooper, of Hoboken, N. J., on the Flora of Washington and Oregon Territories.

Dr. Chas. E. Isaacs, of N. Y., on the Intimate Structure and the Pathology of the Kidney.

Dr. Israel Moses, of New York City, on the Diseases Incidental to Europeans from Temperate Climes in their Transition through Central America.

Dr. T. W. Gordon, of Georgetown, Brown County, O., on the Etiology and Pathology of Epidemic Cholera, to be continued three years, and with power to add any other members.

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, on the Excretions as an Index to the Organic Changes going on in the System.

Dr. D. D. Thompson, of Louisville, on the Remedial Effects of Chloroform.

To fill vacancies in the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics: *New Hampshire*—Dr. V. P. Fitch, of Amherst.

California—Dr. Robert Murray, of Fort Miller.

To fill vacancies in the Committee upon a Uniform System of Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths:

Vermont—Dr. Adrian T. Woodward, of Castleton.

Connecticut—Dr. Wm. B. Casey, of Middletown.

Virginia—Dr. R. W. Haxall, of Richmond.

California—Dr. Arthur R. Stout, of San Francisco.

They recommended the continuance of the "Committee to Procure Memorials of the Eminent and Worthy Dead," and that the report, as far as prepared, be referred to the Committee on Publication.

STANDING COMMITTEES.—*Committee on Publication*—Drs. Francis G. Smith, of Pa., Chairman; Caspar Wistar, of Pa.; Samuel L. Hollingsworth, of Pa.; Samuel Lewis, of Pa.; H. F. Askew, of Del.; Wm. Brodie, of Mich.; R. C. Foster, of Tenn.

Committee on Prize Essays—Drs. Wm. K. Bowling, of Tenn., Chairman; E. B. Haskins, of Tenn.; Thomas Lipscomb, of Tenn.; A. H. Buchanan, of Tenn.; B. W. Avent, of Tenn.; W. A. Cheatham, of Tenn.; Paul F. Eve, of Tenn.

Committee of Arrangements—Drs. C. K. Winston, of Tenn., Chairman; Ira Conwell, of Tenn.; William D. Haggart, of Tenn.; J. L. C. Johnson, of Tenn.; F. A. Ramsay, of Tenn.; Geo. Grant, of Tenn.; J. B. Lindsley, of Tenn.

On Medical Education—Drs. E. Geddings, of S. C., Chairman; C. W. Le Boutillier, of Minnesota; G. F. Mitchell, of Ohio; S. W. Clanton, of Ala.; S. W. Butler, of N. J.

On Medical Literature—Drs. R. Hills, of Ohio, Chairman; D. W. Yandell, of Ky.; R. R. Porter, of Del.; H. A. Johnson, of Ill.; Charles E. Swan, of Maine.

There were present at the meeting of the Association about 300 members, the Committee on Nominations representing twenty States.

ART. II.—*An Account of a Singular Cutaneous Eruption*. By
EPHRAIM BATEMAN, M. D., Cedarville, N. J.

IN looking over the May number of the REPORTER, I see an article from the pen of Dr. Hunton, describing "an obstinate cutaneous eruption" which has lately come under his notice. Judging from his description of the disease, that it is similar to one which has been prevalent among us, I thought, perhaps, a short account of its appearance and treatment would not be uninteresting at this time. The first case of this peculiar eruption occurred in my practice some three years ago; and owing to the fact that it closely resembled scabies in many respects, was allowed to progress, through the delicacy of the patient, from one stage to another, until what was at first but a simple eruption, soon become troublesome ulcers. These ulcers were mostly confined to the extremities, and though at first resisting most pertinaciously the treatment employed, finally yielded, and the patient recovered.

From this period up to the present time, this disease has spread and propagated throughout the town—nor has it been confined in its attacks solely to this place; it has visited neighboring towns and villages, and has in every place been known by its peculiar eruption, and obstinate manner of attack. While many, from motives of delicacy, deny its contagious character, still my own experience, which has not been circumscribed, fully attests to its contagious nature. This disease is not confined in its attacks to those of the poorer and less cleanly part of the community. No class or grade of society appears to be exempt from it—it adapts itself to the occupant of the mansion, as well as to the humble cot; and generally, if introduced in a family, is liable to spread itself among its different members. Although cleanliness is absolutely necessary, and tends to mitigate the disease, it is not a preventive—some of the most obstinate and inveterate cases that have ever come under my notice, have been among those in the higher walks of life. As far as this disease is concerned, "it is no disgrace to be poor."

The first indication a patient has of its attack, is an intolerable itching and burning upon the surface of the part attacked—a vesicular eruption then makes its appearance. While I have seen

this eruption first make its appearance upon the fingers and hands, this is by no means common. It more frequently inaugurates itself upon the face, breast, and extremities. I have seen cases in which the face resembled the prickly heat of children, being completely covered with the eruption. The itching is most intense, and the desire to scratch ungovernable. The patients declare themselves as suffering intensely, from this constant burning and itching, and the unpardonable offence of being compelled to resort to such a method for relief. The pustules vary in size and number; the smaller the vesicle the more numerous, and *vice versa*. At first it is generally confined to a particular part of the body, but gradually extends itself over the whole surface, unless prevented by speedy action. The pustules generally contain at first a watery fluid, which in many cases is superseded by pus. The less friction and irritation that is applied to the pustules, the less liable are they to assume the ulcerative stage.

This disease is in some respects closely allied to scabies, still it wants some of the characteristics of that malady, and does not readily yield to the remedies heretofore employed in that disease. The old "itch lotions" and "women specifics" prove wholly inert in its treatment, and many celebrated "itch doctresses" "throw physic to the dogs" in disgust, and declare themselves beaten. Physicians thus far have failed to find a name *worthy* of this troublesome malady. It is not scabies, and the question "What is it?" remains unanswered. But one case of diabetes associated with this eruption has come under my notice, and this speedily recovered upon the administration of appropriate remedies.

This disease is not always eradicated when it makes its disappearance. It is liable to return at intervals of a year—such has been my experience. Patients that I had supposed cured, and who were entirely free from the attending symptoms which mark the disease, have returned after a lapse of six months and a year, stating that the enemy was again in the field, looking as fresh and vigorous as at first. Whether the peculiar poison which generates this disease had lain dormant in the system during this length of time, or the patient had exposed himself a second time to the contagion of the disease, I never fully made up my mind, but circumstances lead to the former conclusion.

It is not safe, as a general rule, to discontinue the administra-

tion of remedies as soon as the eruption ceases; the treatment should be continued after all vestiges of the disease have been removed, in order to insure a permanent cure.

Of all the cutaneous affections that have ever come under my notice, this is the most obstinate, and yields less readily to treatment than any of which I have any knowledge. If it is scabies, it is not the scabies of which the ancient writers treat—it is considerably *modernized*.

The treatment employed has embraced all the known remedies ever discovered for cutaneous eruptions. The vocabulary of medicine has been exhausted in attempting to find a specific. I at first employed sulphur externally and internally, enjoining cleanliness, rigid diet, &c. This did not answer the end desired. I have used the various ointments, such as citrine, precipitate, tar, sulphur, &c. In some cases the application appeared to have the desired effect, in others it only aggravated the symptoms. The laurel bath was administered to one patient, which for a time appeared to allay the irritation and act beneficially, but the disease speedily returned.

The internal remedies employed have been various. Sarsaparilla, iodide potass., Fowler's arsenical solution, and a multitude of others. Each has had its day in which to strut upon the stage of action. In some cases they proved of decided benefit, in others their beneficial effects were not so apparent.

After an experience of three years in the treatment of this disease, and having tried effectually almost every known remedy, I find that the prescription which has been most efficacious in my practice, and which has resulted in the relief and cure of the greatest number of patients, has been the internal administration of the liq. potass. arsenitis, from 1 to 8 drops three times a day, according to the age and constitution of the patient; and the external application of a wash composed of bichloride of mercury 3j, crude sal ammoniac 3ij, water Oiss. The minerals to be dissolved in the water and applied to the part affected, morning and evening. My present treatment in a majority of cases has been narrowed down to the above prescription. More relief has been obtained, and a greater number of cures effected from this one prescription than from all the others combined. The effect is not at all times as speedy as other remedies, but it is more lasting, and the disease

less liable to return. Care should be taken in the administration of the arsenical preparation to watch its effect upon the system, and should any of its poisonous symptoms supervene, it must be discontinued or the dose diminished. I have found but one individual that could not take it. I generally give the medicine upon a full stomach, as it is less liable to derange the system. This is a part of my experience in this eruptive disease, and if you think it worthy of publication, you are at liberty to use it. I have not been so unfortunate as Dr. Hunton, having thus far escaped an attack of it, and from the sufferings I have witnessed in others, I hope and pray I always may.

ART. III.—*Translations from Foreign Journals.* By CH. F. J.

LEHLBACH, M. D., Newark, N. J.

Experiments on the body of a decapitated criminal by the Professors, H. Müller, Kölliker, and Virchow, at the University of Wurzburg (Wurzburg, Verhandl., 1854, v. i.).

On irritation of the sympathetic nerve, one inch above the superior cervical ganglion, the pupil speedily dilated, and the dilatation lasted as long as the irritation was continued. The same result was obtained by irritation of the pneumogastric nerve. The presence of air was determined in the superficial cerebral nerves. Irritation of the oculo-motory nerve did not produce any effect upon the pupil. The centre of the yellow spot of the retina (macula lutea s. flava retinæ) was distinguished by great transparency. The cavity of the nostrils has ciliary motion throughout, even in the olfactory region of the cribriform bone, which, according to Kölliker, Todd and Bowman, should possess a peculiar lining membrane, *not* ciliary. The cavernous tissue, discovered at the inferior concha by Kölliker, showed contractions on the application of Duchenne's electrical apparatus, and it was found to possess a large number of non-striated muscular fibres. Neither the tympanum nor the auditory ossicula possess ciliary motion; it is, however, present throughout the promontory of the tympanum. In the ligamentum spinale of the cochlea were found a number of

corpuscula amylacea. Of the ventricles of the brain only the second manifested distinct ciliary motion; it was absent at the cho-roid plexuses. On the application of an electrical current the venous coats are thrown into transverse and longitudinal folds, as are also the lacteals, which discharged the chyle in a small stream, while under the influence of the electric current. The electrical current produced but feeble contraction of the coats of the intestines and intestinal villi. The spleen (under the elect. current) furrowed itself, and the furrows thus produced on its surface corresponded exactly to the course of insertion of the processes of the fibrous or proper covering of the organ (trabecules of the spleen). The galvanic current produced erection of the nipple, and contractions of the corpora cavernosa penis. The contractions of the latter were observed on pieces separated from the body. (Temperature of the body while experimented upon, 28-29° R., or 95-97° F.)

Division of Nerves in Traumatic Tetanus.—In his inaugural dissertation, "Nonnulla de nervorum sectione ad tetanum traumaticum sanandum Instituta, Lipsiac, 1854," Dr. J. Kuehn quotes eight cases of traumatic tetanus in which division of the nerve was followed with success, and to these cases he adds a ninth, which he had occasion to observe at Leipsic, with Prof. G. B. Guenther. A lad, aged 13, whilst playing fell from a pump, so as to receive a complicated fracture of both bones of the forearm, together with a luxation of the elbow-joint. Four weeks afterwards, he was admitted into the Leipsic Hospital. On the day after his admission, mortification of the fingers took place, which gradually extended, until a line of demarkation appeared just above the wrist; the hand was removed, and the projecting bones resected. The wound cicatrized well, so that the patient was about being discharged. All of a sudden the whole body became convulsed, the lower extremities were in a violent state of spasmodic action; the arms now flexed, now rigidly extended; the jaws could hardly be separated; the head was retracted; the muscles of the neck contracted. The patient, with all this, was conscious, his face was flushed, manifesting fear, and he complained of violent pain in the cicatrix, which was aggravated by the slightest pressure, or even by touching it. These attacks returned in irregular intervals. The circumstance, that the pain was

definitely fixed in the cicatrix, led easily to the conclusion, that the tetanic spasms were caused by an irritation of the median nerve, which corresponded to the situation. After the spasms had lasted for two hours, the division of this nerve was determined upon. By a longitudinal incision the nerve, which, though of normal circumference, had been transformed into a callous mass, was exposed, a second, transverse incision separated the soft parts down to the bone, and a portion of the nerve 4-5" long was extirpated. The operation was very painful, and very bloody, on account of the impossibility of ligating the arteria interossea separately in the hard, indurated mass. The spasmodic attacks at once abated; one-fourth of a grain of the morph. acet. put the patient to sleep, and twelve days after the operation he could be discharged. Three months afterwards our author saw the lad again. He had been the subject of three attacks of an epileptic kind, probably the result of a new neuritis induced in the new cicatrix. (Our author calls these epileptic attacks "a mild (or chronic) form of tetanus.")

Notwithstanding these unfavorable subsequent incidents, the author believes himself justified in adding this case to the number of successful cases, and points to the fact, that in all recorded (by him?) cases the section of the nerve was made in the first forty-eight hours. To this early interference must be attributed in his opinion the successful issue, because, the operation being longer delayed, the brain itself would suffer such changes by the continued irritation, as to become itself the cause of a continuance of the tetanus, even after division of the nerve had been accomplished.

The other consequences of the operation, loss of sensibility and motion, the author thinks are not to be taken into consideration, as in tetanus our indication is a "vital" one, and the loss of sensibility is in most cases but temporary, while that of motion is often not to be taken into account at all, on account of amputation having previously been resorted to. As regards Guérin's and Bonnet's subcutaneous section, it is difficult, often impracticable, and always insecure in its effect.

Physiological Effects of Aconitin.—From a large number of experiments performed on animals, in reference to the pharmacodynamic effects, and therapeutical application of *Aconitin*, Leonidas Van Praeg (*Virchow's Archiv.*) has obtained the following result:—

Aconitin exercises a retarding influence upon respiration, has a paralyzing effect upon the voluntary muscular system; its action upon the brain is depressing. It does not act upon the circulation as a depressant, but under its administration the pulse becomes fluctuating, manifesting great differences. As a general rule, *aconitin* produces dilatation of the pupils; less constantly, increased salivary and urinary secretions. In cases where death takes place suddenly from the administration of *aconitin*, it is death by *asphyxia*; where it takes place after the lapse of some time, the animals experimented upon seem to die away, as it were, exhausted. The administration of the extract. *aconit.* causes much more severe intestinal irritation than the administration of the alkaloid; in most other points their effects are parallel. In a pharmacodynamic point of view, *aconitin* is by far to be preferred to the extract, because, if chemically pure, it does not act as a local acrid irritant to the intestines, like the well-prepared extract; and because it can always be obtained of the same strength.

The largest dose, which can be administered without danger, may be stated as three-fourths of a grain. *Turnbull* states to have seen good results from its external application in neuralgias and rheumatic affections. *Skey* gave an ointment of *aconitin* gr. v, cerat. ʒvj, in three cases of *tic douloureux* with good results. *Broches* used a salve of *aconitin*, gr. ij; epis. vin. q. s. ut. salv. axung. porc. ʒij, in neuralgias of the fifth pair. After a few applications, the frequency and intensity of the attacks diminished, and after six weeks' continuance of the treatment, the disease was suspended, after having been treated for years with *belladonna*, *veratrine*, *strychnine*, and *iodine* unsuccessfully. The following are the author's conclusions:—

1. That *aconitin* acts in most points like the extracts, *aconit.*, *aleoh.*, and is therefore to be employed in the same diseases.

2. It is far preferable to every other preparation of the article, on account of the unvariableness of the alkaloid, when properly prepared; while the plants, according to their different place of growth, and according to the year in which they have been collected, always show immense differences in their action.

3. The *aconitin* is devoid of the acrid, irritating nature of the extract.

ART. IV.—*Obstinate Cutaneous Eruption.* By S. G. HUBBARD,
M. D., New Haven, Conn.

[We are glad that the article in our last, from Dr. Hunton, has elicited responses from two practitioners in different localities. The same obstinate form of cutaneous eruption has prevailed in this section of country. The eruption seems to belong to the class psoriasis. It seems remarkable that a furunculoid epidemic, which was almost world-wide in its prevalence, should be succeeded by one of this character. We hope the subject will be further discussed, and take this opportunity of expressing our obligations to those who have already written upon it.—ED. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER.]

THE case of "obstinate cutaneous eruption," by Dr. Hunton, stated in the May number of the REPORTER, and similar cases reported on page 151 of the March number, correspond so closely with a cutaneous disease met with here, that I presume they are identical. For two or three years past a great number of these cases have come under my notice, among persons from different States, and although highly contagious, the circumstances often indicated that it was brought here from abroad, and must be epidemic over a large part of the country.

I have seen nothing to compare with the aggravated case reported by Dr. Hunton, but the ordinary appearances in these cases are the same—commencing with a vesicle, generally on an inflamed base, accompanied by papulæ, it appears first on the back of the hands and fingers, or on the wrists and arms, rapidly extending to the trunk and lower extremities—frequently making its first appearance on the thighs or buttocks.

It is attended by very intense itching and burning, which are aggravated by the heat of the fire or bedclothes.

Whenever the tops of the vesicles are torn by scratching, ulceration ensues, followed by a scaly scab of a dingy color, leaving the skin underneath it of a yellowish copper hue.

I have never observed any constitutional disturbance of consequence, except that occasioned by irritation and loss of sleep.

In the treatment of these cases I have used all the ordinary and extraordinary local remedies, together with Fowler's solution, iodide of potassium, corrosive sublimate, &c. &c., but have found all internal remedies of little avail, and I rely now principally on the local application of the white precipitate ointment, and an

iodine lotion, prescribed under the following formulæ and directions:—

R.—Ung. hydrargyri ammoniati	3j.
Pulvis opii	ʒij.
M.	
R.—Potassii iodidi	3j.
Iodinii	gr. v. vel x.
Aquæ destillatæ	ʒj.
Solve.	

With a sponge apply the lotion to all parts affected, night and morning. After the surface has become dry again, apply the ointment liberally. If the lotion produces too great irritation, sponge the surface with bran-water, or mucilage of flaxseed, in which has been dissolved a little saleratus.

Under this treatment a cure is generally effected in the course of a week or ten days. Sometimes, however, in the stage of ulceration the ointment is not well borne at first. I would then use the alkaline mucilage alone, or with the iodine lotion conjoined, for a few days, after which the general plan of treatment can be pursued.

Of course the state of the stomach and bowels should be attended to, and their secretions corrected if necessary.

Since adopting this course of treatment I have been much gratified by the results, but as yet have not attempted to classify the disease.

PATHOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTICAL REPORTS.

ART. V.—*New York Pathological Society.* Reported by E. LEE
JONES, M. D., Secretary.

REGULAR MEETING, Feb. 13, 1856.

Chylous Urine, Microscopic Examination.—Dr. ALONZO CLARK exhibited a small vial of urine, which he was informed was passed in its present milky condition; from its appearance, he thought it to contain urate of ammonia, but on subjecting it to examination by the microscope, an immense number of extremely minute granules, and a few oil globules were observed, and it was noticed that a large number of vibriones were present, formed unusually early, as the urine was kept in a cold room, and examined the morning after it was voided. The milkiness is caused by the little granular masses diffused throughout the fluid. In the other vial is a mixture of urine two parts, and ether one part; the milkiness is entirely removed by the ether, and it is seen to have separated into two distinct layers, the upper one is transparent, the lower, of an amber color, and gelatinous consistence; a large amount of albumen is also present. This specimen was passed by a clerk in a liquor store, who was in the habit of freely drinking gin—four or five days before the urine in the vial was passed, he is informed that it was clear and natural in appearance—his health has not suffered. He would inform himself more particularly in regard to the case, and report at a future meeting of the society.

Aneurism of Aorta leading into Pleural Cavity.—Dr. GEORGE T. ELLIOT presented an aneurism of the aorta removed from a woman, a patient of Bellevue Hospital, 30 years old. When received, she complained of pain over the sacrum, and a general debility, nothing else seemed to be present—tonics were administered. Suddenly she was seized with a sharp pain over the heart and left shoulder, and great prostration. The house physician was summoned, and on examination discovered dulness over left side and absence of the respiratory murmur; in a few minutes she died.

Post-mortem examination disclosed an aneurism of the aorta, which had discharged its contents into the left pleural cavity, where was found a pint and a half of clotted blood.

Encysted Kidneys.—Dr. VAN BUREN presented for Dr. Gentry, of Bellevue Hospital, a well-marked and beautiful specimen of *encysted disease* of the kidneys, weighing 14 ounces. When first removed, the surface of both was entirely covered with cysts, varying in size, some containing an ounce of fluid, in some of a yellow glairy consistence, in others, of grumous character. The microscope showed nothing peculiar except granular material and a few oil globules. On section, the integrity of the cortical and medullary tissue is

seen to remain. The medullary structure was carefully examined with a view of ascertaining if the cysts were due to a dilatation of uriniferous tubuli; the inference derived from the examination seems not to warrant this conclusion.

Dr. Clark inquired if there was any dilatation of the investment of the Malpighian bodies.

Dr. Van Buren replied that they were not examined.

Dr. Clark observed that the opinion is entertained by some, that the disease depends on a dilatation of the uriniferous tubes investing and reflected over the Malpighian bodies; and that this is the seat of the degeneration, and the effusion occurs on the attached surface.

Dr. Van Buren stated that it was not clearly ascertained if the sheath was so reflected.

Dr. Clark had himself injected the uriniferous tubes with a solution of indigo, and stained the structure, which looked as if it might be that investing membrane.

Aneurism of the Internal Iliac.—Dr. VAN BUREN next presented a specimen rather of surgical than pathological interest, an *aneurismal sac* of the *internal iliac artery*, which was removed from a patient of St. Vincent's Hospital. At the time of admission his system was much reduced, and shattered by the use of opium and stimulants. On examination, an immense pulsating tumor was seen situated both above and below Poupart's ligament. Over its most prominent part was a black eschar, which looked as if it might burst at any moment. On consultation, it was concluded that an attempt to tie the artery should be made. A large incision was made; and, carefully pushing up the peritoneum, an artery was felt, apparently healthy in structure, and supposed to be the external iliac. A ligature was passed around it, with the effect of controlling the pulsation. The next day he was doing well; but in three days active inflammation of the tumor ensued, and he sank rapidly and died on the fifth day. *Post-mortem examination* disclosed the ligature around the primitive iliac, an inch above its bifurcation into external and internal; a well-formed clot existed in the internal iliac. No peritonitis. Extensive suppuration had occurred in and around the sac.

Ovarian Tumor.—Dr. E. A. PEASLEE presented an *encysted ovarian tumor*, weighing 45 pounds, removed from a lady aged 41, who first observed a tumor in the left iliac region between three and four years ago, which has gradually increased up to the present time (Feb. '56), with slight fluctuations in size. It had from the first been regarded as *ovarian*. The patient was first seen by Dr. P. in May, 1855; she wishing to obtain his opinion in regard to the propriety of an operation for its removal by the large abdominal section. On examination, he found the abdominal circumference to be 47 inches, the walls of the abdomen so tense that he could not decide whether the mass consisted of many or few distinct sacs. The general condition of the patient was so low, that he did not for a moment entertain the idea of an operation, and gave his opinion accordingly.

He did not again see her till the 25th of last month (Jan. '56), when he was again requested to remove the mass. To his surprise, her condition had much improved since May '55 (though she had failed during the past summer); and,

though the tumor had risen somewhat higher in the epigastrium, her circumference was but 48 inches. Appetite pretty good, respiration somewhat hurried, though, when sitting or lying quiet, there was no dyspnoea. Bowels regular, action of kidneys rather free. He did not, however, *advise* the operation of ovariectomy; though to her inquiry whether she was apparently in as good a general condition as the two persons on whom he had operated successfully, he was obliged to reply in the affirmative, and moreover that it was impossible to ascertain whether the mass was adherent or not, without previously evacuating the sacs by tapping to such an extent as to admit a more exact examination, and that he could not express any opinion in favor of ovariectomy, without previously tapping her; and if in doing this, he found the mass extensively adherent, or could not decide it was *not* adherent, in that event, he would not entertain the idea of an operation. He did not advise the tapping even; since, though he regarded this operation as hardly dangerous in any degree, she was informed that the mass might be made up of very many small sacs, and without a single large one, and in that case she would be disappointed, and *he* should not arrive at any positive result as to the adhesion or non-adhesion of the tumor. The patient had a decided aversion to being tapped, unless she was assured that ovariectomy would follow, since a sister, who had been tapped a few years since, for the same disease, died a week after of peritonitis, and because she supposed, if once tapped, a repetition of the operation would be frequently necessary. After a deliberation of five days on the subject, the patient again sent for Dr. P., and informed him she had decided to be tapped, as preliminary to the decision of the question, whether he would perform ovariectomy or not. The operation was performed in the usual way, on the 4th inst., assisted by Dr. Ranney, of 23d street. Her condition was good. Fluctuation indicated the existence of a distinct sac of considerable size, in and below the umbilical region, and another higher up. The former was at once reached by the trocar, and six pints of clear and highly gelatinous fluid (to the sense of touch) evacuated; and on partially withdrawing the canula, two pints more of a milky fluid were withdrawn, evidently from another sac, which had been traversed by the instrument, while on its way to the larger one. On changing the direction of the canula to penetrate another sac, a few drops of venous blood flowed through the instrument. This he thought proceeded from a minute vessel on the interior of the sac, which had been punctured, as he had seen the same thing before. Several smaller sacs were then punctured, and on withdrawing the canula as before, a few drops of venous blood again appeared. Fearing this might escape through the puncture in the sac into the cavity of the peritoneum, he waited until the dropping entirely ceased, and then withdrew the canula. With a curved trocar, other more distant sacs were evacuated. The mass now seemed to be composed of small cysts, and it seemed impossible to reduce the tumor much more. Further attempt was therefore discontinued. More blood now flowed through the canula; he waited till all oozing ceased, before finally withdrawing the instrument. Fifteen pounds of fluid had been withdrawn. The patient was fatigued by the prolonged operation, and depressed in mind from the fact that the operation must fail to demonstrate

the adherence or non-adherence of the tumor; but with the exception of some faintness and sickness of the stomach, nothing worthy of mention occurred. The tumor could be slightly moved below the umbilicus, but not at all at the upper part; the idea of the operation of ovariectomy was therefore abandoned. The next morning before 10 o'clock he was requested to visit the patient in haste, as she seemed to be sinking; before he arrived she was dead. She had passed a tolerably comfortable night, with sickness of the stomach at times, but presented no grave symptoms till 8 o'clock, when her expression changed, and she became restless, and died before 10. *Post-mortem examination*, six and a half hours after death. Some bloody serum had escaped from the puncture through the abdominal walls. On cutting through the latter on the median line, a thick and very vascular membrane was found intervening between the parietal peritoneum and the ovarian mass; and a layer of bloody serum was seen between this and the mass, one or two inches deep. This membrane was found to cover over the whole tumor anteriorly and laterally, like an apron, it being also adherent to the tumor on both sides, as well as to the pelvis and the lower portion of the tumor. On further examination, the membrane just described was found to be the omentum major; and hemorrhage had proceeded from a small vein, which had been punctured in penetrating it to reach the first sac. It had become so thick and firm, as well as vascular, by constant pressure and the motions of the tumor, that he had mistaken it for the wall of the sac first punctured, and the blood, which, during the operation, he supposed had flowed from the inner wall of the sac, had really flowed from the membrane just mentioned, into the cavity formed by the adhesions before specified, between itself and the diseased mass. But little bloody serum had escaped into the cavity of the peritoneum; and it was judged that not more than eight or ten ounces had been lost in all. The tumor (which was shown) was found extensively adherent to its upper and lateral portion, not so much so below the umbilicus. Its removal would not have been attempted during life, had it been exposed to view for that purpose, by any judicious surgeon. It was found to consist of an immense number of small sacs, as you perceive; and weighed forty-five pounds, making sixty pounds in all before the operation of paracentesis. It was chiefly developed from the left ovary; and both Fallopian tubes were closed up and distended with a putty-like substance, in which broken-up epithelial cells predominate.

It may be proper here to remark, that though a married lady for several years past, she had never been pregnant; menstruation had been regular till within the last one and a half years. Dr. P. observed that the hemorrhage must be regarded as the "*causa sine qua non*" of death in this case. That is, had no hemorrhage occurred, death might not have taken place in any immediate connection with the operation. A quantity of blood between the omentum and the tumor, with a small amount also in the peritoneal cavity, must have in a few days led to a fatal result; but in accounting for a death occurring within sixteen and a half hours after the operation, and where the amount of blood lost was so small, we should doubtless also take into consideration the exhaustion from the operation, and especially the

mental shock produced by the knowledge that the operation had led to no positive result in diagnosis, and that therefore nothing further would be done.

The source of the hemorrhage was, as far as he knew, *peculiar*. Branches of the internal epigastric artery have sometimes been wounded; the bladder has been wounded; the uterus, happening to lie in front of the tumor, has also been punctured; and one of the Fallopian tubes, also happening to be stretched over it in front, has been transfixed. But he has never heard of the greater omentum being injured by a puncture, at a point usually regarded as the safest, half way between the pubis and the umbilicus. Indeed, in all ordinary circumstances, where the abdomen is largely distended, it is impossible that the omentum should extend to this point. For it is not long enough, naturally, to extend even to the umbilicus in a case like this, even though it originally fall into the pelvis; and moreover, it is uniformly, as far as he is aware, pushed up by the tumor during its development from below, and is generally found somewhat folded, and not reaching more than half the distance from the stomach to the umbilicus. In this case, the omentum was not less than two and a half feet long, as the specimen will show, since it completely covered the tumor anteriorly and laterally. And since, had it been free at its lower extremity at the time the tumor first began to grow, the latter would doubtless have merely lifted it up as is usual. Dr. P., inferred that the omentum had become adherent to some portion of the pelvic peritoneum before the tumor began to be developed. Thus the tumor grew upwards behind the omentum, which thus was expanded over the whole length of the tumor.

Finally, the whole extent of the omentum was equally vascular; and had the puncture been made at any other point, there is no reason for believing that the hemorrhage would have been less than that which actually occurred.

Caries of Elbow-Joint—Exsection.—Dr. A. C. Post presented the extremities of the bone of the elbow-joint, removed by the operation of exsection, for caries, from a boy fourteen years old. The patient was progressing well, and he anticipated his having a serviceable limb. Dr. P. again exhibited the specimen of *eburnation* of the *femur*, shown to members two meetings since. He had macerated the bone, and it is observed that its inferior portion is in a carious condition; above that, there is necrosis of the shaft; and within the medullary cavity is a sequestrum, which, though movable, cannot be withdrawn, being retained by two small holes, each of them having a peg of bone, passing down to the sequestrum. The specimen was mainly interesting from the fact of its presenting ankylosis, caries, necrosis, and eburnation.

Valvular Disease, &c. &c.—Dr. O'RORKE exhibited a specimen of *valvular disease of the heart and dilation of the ascending aorta, with constriction of that vessel*, and gave the following history of the case: Caroline L., aged thirty-six, born in England, came under observation in May, 1855. She complained of distressing pain in cardiac region, palpitation, and vertigo, with frequent attacks of syncope following agitation or excitement, especially that of the sexual organs. She had also chronic rheumatism in most

of her joints; had acute rheumatism several years ago. She was accustomed to hard work, was very excitable, and was anemic and very much emaciated; but never had œdema of the extremities. Her pulse was equal in both wrists, small, weak, and jerking or receding; there was a thrill communicated to both the carotids. She had increased dulness over the precordial region, but the rest of the chest was resonant on percussion, except a small space on the right of the sternum and between the third rib and the clavicle, where there was slight pulsation. The heart's action was attended with strong impulse. The apex struck the chest one inch and a quarter to the outside at the nipple, and between the sixth and seventh ribs. Rhythm was natural. Over the heart was heard a loud, systolic, bellows murmur, most distinct over the apex. Over the aortic valves was a double murmur, the systolic being loud, coarse, and passing up the aorta, and heard distinctly in the second intercostal space to the right of sternum. Also at the top of sternum it was quite audible between the upper and middle third of the scapula on each side of the spine; and between the spine and the lower angle of the scapula; it was more distinct on the left side than on the right. There was a harsh, sharp murmur at the commencement of the diastole. The diagnosis was *hypertrophy of the heart*, accompanied by *mitral regurgitation*, with *aortic obstruction and regurgitation with aneurism of ascending aorta*. The treatment was tonic and sedative in its character, each new prescription being followed by marked relief. Still her paroxysms of pain, palpitation, and syncope would return at short intervals, she thinking that each one would end in death. She was out on business on Monday, Feb. 11th, 1856, apparently as well as usual. On the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 13th, she had an attack of pain, palpitation, &c., when she suddenly expired. *Post-mortem examination* was made eight hours after death, in the presence of Dr. Leaming (to whom I am indebted for the opportunity of doing so), Drs. Tucker and Clark.

On opening the chest, the lungs did not collapse. They filled the chest completely, and were healthy, except in being slightly emphysematous. There were no traces of old pleurisy. The pericardium contained from six to eight ounces of clear serum, and the right pleura twice that amount. The abdominal organs were healthy. There was also hypertrophy of the left ventricle of the heart, the walls being twelve lines thick. The ventricular cavity, however, was not dilated, and the right side was not at all increased in size. The mitral orifice was contracted to a little more than half its normal dimensions, being capable of admitting only the end of one finger; but it was quite smooth. The anterior mitral valve, or that between the mitral and aortic orifice, was thickened and somewhat shortened, though not at all roughened; the other seemed to be absent; being so much contracted that the chordæ tendinæ appeared attached to the tendinous margin of the auriculo-ventricular opening. The aortic or semilunar valves were thickened, contracted, and adherent to each other at their sides, so as to stand out, forming a ring around the orifice, and of course obstructing the passage of the blood from the ventricle. Yet in their constriction they failed to meet in the centre, and admitted of considerable regurgitation. The circumference

of the ascending aorta, one inch above the free margin of the semilunar valves, measured three inches and eight lines. Immediately outside the attachment of the remains of the ductus arteriosus, the descending aorta, instead of descending by a gradual curve or arch, as usual, descended abruptly, thereby forming an angle. At this point the under wall or coats of the artery became, as it were, folded inward or upward; forming a sulcus one and a half or two lines deep on the concave or lower wall, and of course, projecting into the vessel. Upon the projecting angle thus formed internally, the internal and middle coats were destroyed for about four lines transversely and about one line longitudinally, and the internal and middle coats dissected up for one and a half or two lines on the distal side of the fissure thus formed by the destruction of the coats of the vessel. At this point the circumference of the artery was only one inch and seven and a half lines, being *seven lines* less than it should have been when compared with the mean circumference of the healthy aorta; but when compared with its own ascending portion, it was one inch and three and a half lines less than it should have been to have carried out the same proportion. The ascending aorta was increased one inch in circumference beyond its natural dimensions, and when compared with the constricted portion just mentioned was very nearly one inch and eight and a half lines more than it should have been. Here, then, existed dilatation of all the coats of the ascending aorta, and at the junction of the arch and the descending portion, a constriction, accompanied by destruction of the internal and middle coats of the aorta, giving rise to a condition which, had the patient lived longer, must necessarily have terminated in false or sacculated aneurism.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

- ART. VI.—1. *Digestion and its Derangements. The Principles of Rational Medicine applied to Disorders of the Alimentary Canal.* By THOMAS K. CHAMBERS, M. D., Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine at St. Mary's Medical School, London, &c. &c. Pp. 441. New York: Samuel S. & Wm. Wood (389 Broadway), 1856.
2. *On the Organic Diseases and Functional Disorders of the Stomach.* By GEORGE BUDD, M. D., F. R. S., Prof. of Medicine in King's College, London, &c. &c. Pp. 252. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1856.

As so many of the disorders of the system that claim the attention of the physician are connected directly or indirectly, with the alimentary canal, it is of the last importance to the medical man to be well informed in regard to the lesions and disorders to which the *primæ viæ* are subject.

The two works before us are well adapted to the wants of the physician in this respect. Chambers' work is much the more elaborate of the two, as its scope is greater, including other disorders of the alimentary canal than those of the stomach merely. It is divided into two books, the first giving a sketch of the several parts concerned in digestion which are common to the whole alimentary tube; then, the several portions are examined connected with the several peculiar solvents which they possess; and then, the substances which these parts are designed to receive. In the Second Book, "On the Derangements of Digestion," a similar plan is followed, so that the several chapters are, as it were, complementary to each other, the organ being exhibited in the first book in its typical state, and in the second, in its deviations; both being, in fact, equally manifestations of physiological laws. The plan of the author is to associate pathology with physiology rather than with morbid anatomy, as he believes that "juster theoretical views are elicited by looking upon disease as part of the phenomena of life, than as the producer of appearances seen after death; and that patients are more likely to be cured by one, whether original observer, or reader, who is considering even imperfectly, the vital actions exhibited by them, than if he knew exactly what would be the consequences of the disease in the corpse."

We can say of the work, that its style is interesting, and even attractive—that the author treats his topics with learning and ability, and that it is, on the whole, a very satisfactory book. When once taken up, the book will be laid down with regret, at least, such has been our experience in reading it.

The chapter on "Accessory Foods" is interesting, and replete with instruction, but, as important as alcohol in its various forms may be as a *medicine*, we cannot admit the force of Chambers' reasoning in his attempts to class it as an article of food, and defend its general use as a beverage. "Instinctive accessory" (p. 420), is, in our view, by far too mild a term to be applied to an agent which is a bane to every community that it has ever visited. The

halest, heartiest, healthiest men and women we know are total abstainers from the use of alcoholic preparations, except in cases of sickness, and they are "knock-down arguments" to such pleadings against "Maine laws" as Chambers has been guilty of in his book. There are paragraphs and arguments here, that keepers of low grogeries will quote generations hence, in support of their traffic. We may recur to this matter again.

The work of Dr. Budd is a collection of sixteen lectures on the Diseases of the Stomach. It is a learned and very satisfactory treatise—one that the general practitioner will frequently have occasion to refer to. We perceive an important omission, viz: a general index. We can unhesitatingly recommend both the above works.

ART. VII.—*Clinical Lectures on Diseases of Women and Children.* By GUNNING S. BEDFORD, A. M., M. D., &c. *Third edition*, carefully revised and enlarged. Pp. 602. New York: Samuel S. & William Wood, 1856.

IN the REPORTER of November last, we noticed the first edition of this work, and there is no better indication of the high estimate placed upon it by the medical public than the fact that we now have before us the third edition. To this edition some forty pages of new matter are added, including a serviceable formula of remedies "selected from various sources." Precision and uniformity are very important considerations in the art of prescribing, and the pertinacity with which so many authors disregard them is as singular as it is censurable. A fluidrachm and a dram of a fluid are different things, and should be characterized accordingly; yet how many perpetually disregard any distinction, Dr. B. not excepted. His book, however, we like, for we can digest a dinner over it without going to sleep, and that is more than we can say of most medical books. Too few medical authors aim to entertain while they instruct, and we are pleased to say, this is not one of Dr. B.'s defects.

P.

ART. VIII.—*Physical Exploration and Diagnosis of Diseases Affecting the Respiratory Organs.* By AUSTIN FLINT, M. D., Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Louisville, &c. &c. Pp. 636. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1856.

"WESTWARD the star of empire takes its way" is no less true in literature than in politics. Until a very recent period, American readers in medicine were obliged to depend entirely upon a foreign literature, and the bullish taunt, "Who reads an American book?" had to be endured, as there were no American books to read. The last few years, however, have witnessed a gradual and a complete change in respect to our home medical literature.

American writers are sending from the press numerous elaborate works on the various branches of medical science, which our cousins over the water are glad to get.

Prof. Flint's work is an elaborate and eminently scientific and practical one on the Diagnosis and Diseases of the Respiratory Organs. Its author has long been known to the profession of this country as an earnest and successful student of this branch of medical science. Dr. Flint states that the number who give much attention to the principles and practice of physical exploration is quite small, its advantages being practically rejected by a large proportion of the medical profession; and he asks whether this may not be in a measure due to the paucity of works treating of the subject specially, and with a degree of fulness commensurate with its importance. This inquiry, mainly, has led to the publication of the work before us. This book, to be really profitable to the possessor, must be studied; and as the present state of medical science requires a knowledge of physical diagnosis on the part of the practitioner, it becomes necessary for him to inform himself on these subjects, and he cannot better do so than by procuring the work under consideration.

ART. IX.—*A Manual of the Practice of Medicine.* By GEORGE HILARO BARLOW, M. A. & M. D., Cantab., &c. &c. With Additions by D. FRANCIS CONDIE, M. D., &c. &c. Pp. 607. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1856.

THIS work is intended principally for students and younger practitioners of medicine. It aims to present a system of medicine based upon the etiology, or the *natural history* of disease. But, whether it can lay any more claim to this plan of presenting the subject than other works on practice is, in our mind, a question. The work, however, appears to be a satisfactory elementary treatise on the practice of medicine, and one well worthy a place in the practitioner's library. The American editor, Dr. Condie, in his preface, speaks in the highest terms of the plan of the work. He has added chapters on Cholera Infantum, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, and Yellow Fever, besides introducing notes into the text.

ART. X.—*Atlas of Cutaneous Diseases.* By J. MOORE NELIGAN, M. D., Edinb., M. R. I. A., Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine in the Dublin School of Medicine, &c. &c. 4to. 16 colored plates. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1856.

NELIGAN'S Atlas of Cutaneous Diseases will prove a very acceptable work to the profession. The publishers deserve well of the profession for the very liberal manner in which the work is got up. The illustrations are admirable, showing, as perfectly as art can show, the eruptive diseases to which

the skin is liable. The colored lithographs which adorn and enrich the book are the work of T. Sinclair & Co., of Philadelphia. Our readers should not be without this admirable work. Neligan's Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin will be sent by the same publishers, by mail, free of postage, on the receipt of one dollar. The "Treatise" forms the text of the Atlas, though the latter may be adapted to any other treatise on diseases of the skin.

ART. XI.—*Headaches; their Causes and their Cure.* By HENRY G. WRIGHT, M. D., M. R. C. S. L., &c. &c. Pp. 140. New York: Samuel S. & Wm. Wood, 389 Broadway. 1856.

THIS is a useful little manual on a very important and much neglected subject. There is much science and skill required in properly managing a headache, common as such affections are. From this little work the practitioner will receive many important and useful suggestions. We cordially recommend it to our readers.

EDITORIAL.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE did not enjoy the pleasure and profit of being present at the sessions of the American Medical Association at Detroit, last month. We are assured, however, that the meeting was one of very great interest, and judging from the reported proceedings, we may say, of very great importance to the interests of medical science. It is very encouraging to see the meetings of the Association kept up with so much interest, and to see that all sections of the Union manifest more or less interest in them. The Secretary, Dr. Brodie, of Detroit—to whose polite attentions, and those of Dr. L. A. Smith, of Newark, in this State, we are indebted for the very full report of the proceedings which accompany this number—informs us that there were about three hundred in attendance, representing twenty States of the Union and Canada. We have not a perfect list of the delegates before us, but it is evident that the interest of some of the States in the Association, is more persistent, so to speak, than that of others. For instance, South Carolina sends several delegates, while Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, and several other States send none. We see but *two* names from New Jersey—but we will not push these criticisms too far, as we have, as we intimated before, but an incomplete list of the delegates to refer to.

Our report does not give an abstract of the address of the retiring President, Dr. Wood, of Philadelphia. The Association ordered a thousand copies of it to be printed. Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Detroit, was elected President for the ensuing year. The prize was given this year to Dr. Henry Hartshorne, of Philadelphia, the subject of his essay being "*The Arterial Circulation.*" But four essays were sent in to compete for the prize. Nashville, Tenn., was chosen as the next place of meeting.

Invitations were given to the Association to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Albany, in August next—the semi-centennial celebration of

the New York State Medical Society, at Albany, on the first Tuesday in February, 1857; and the next annual meeting of the Massachusetts State Medical Association. All these invitations were accepted. An official notice was received from the Secretary of the Ohio State Medical Society, that the resolution passed at the previous meeting of the Society, to the effect that it "is not derogatory to medical dignity, or inconsistent with medical honor, for medical gentlemen to take out a patent-right for surgical or mechanical instruments," was rescinded. The resolution was passed at a time when many members had left for their homes, the mover, Dr. Grant, being a lawyer, and not a practitioner of medicine. Resolutions were passed of respect for the memory of the late Drs. John C. Warren, of Boston, T. R. Beck, of Albany, and P. C. Gooch, of Richmond, and the forty physicians who with him sacrificed their lives in the cause of humanity, during the terrible epidemic of yellow fever, in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., last summer. A resolution was adopted authorizing the President to appoint delegates annually, to represent the Association in some of the foreign medical bodies; also to send delegates to a medical congress to assemble in Europe the present year. A committee, consisting of Drs. Wistar and Neill, of Pa., and Hall, of the District of Columbia, was appointed to confer with the proper officer of the Smithsonian Institute, in respect to procuring a chamber in that institution, for the uses of the Association. There seems to be a growing desire on the part of many members of the Association to have its annual sessions held in one place. It has always seemed to us that the Association would be a more *national* body if most of its meetings were held at Washington. The meetings might not be as large as at present, but we think that more States would be represented in them. We would be favorable to two meetings out of three being held in Washington.

We are very glad to observe that the attention of the Association was specially directed to the subject of liberally rewarding *original* investigations and discoveries in medicine. The matter was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Leidy, Wood, and C. D. Meigs, of Philadelphia. This is a good committee. The Association could hardly appropriate its surplus funds to a better

purpose than encouraging original research and discovery, and we hope it will be done in the most liberal manner.

The profession of Detroit were very liberal in their arrangements for the entertainment of the Association. On the afternoon of the 7th, a pleasure excursion came off on board the steamer *Western World*, and was participated in by about two hundred ladies, and six hundred gentlemen. The excursion occupied about five hours and a half. A bountiful supper was prepared for the company on the boat.

In respect to the choice of President of the Association, the *Detroit Free Press*, to which we are mainly indebted for the report of the proceedings, holds the following language:—

"The choice of our respected fellow townsman, Dr. ZINA PITCHER, by the members of the National Medical Association, as the President of the Association for the ensuing year, is especially gratifying to the citizens of Detroit, where he is best known. No man among us has earned a more enviable reputation in medical science, and none holds a higher place in the respect and esteem of all classes, for his affable demeanor, kindness of heart, and unsullied integrity; and upon none could the highest honors of his profession be more worthily bestowed."

At the conclusion of a large, interesting, and we hope useful meeting, the Association adjourned to meet in Nashville, Tenn., on the first Tuesday in May, 1857. May we be there to greet the Association in the capital of our native State!

QUACK MORALITY—AYER AGAIN.

Any one who will attentively read the advertisements of quacks, and certainly any one who will take a little pains to examine into their tricks and utter perversions of truth, will readily see that for a man to abandon himself to quackery, is to abandon himself to the use of any means, however degrading they may be to his standing as an honorable man, that will be likely to increase the sale of his nostrums.

In the *REPORTER* for April, we published a communication calling attention to the fact that the names of several prominent physicians were given as certifying to the excellence of certain quack medicines. It may be remembered that we denied the existence of a certain "Dr. Peleg Bartlett," who was represented as one of the leading practitioners of this State, and whose name

was appended to a recommendation of a certian pill. In corroboration of our statement, we quote the following, from a letter dated "Dover, N. J., April 14, 1856:" "No such person as Peleg Bartlett, M. D., does now reside in this place or ever did, and that so far as Dover in Morris County is concerned, it is entirely fraudulent and a fabrication."

The following extract from a letter, from Syracuse, N. Y., will show how respectable physicians are sometimes inveigled into giving their names in recommendation of quack remedies. We hope that the experience of the writer will serve as a warning to others.

"I acknowledge the receipt of the April number of the *REPORTER*, calling my attention to 'Certificates to Quack Medicine,' by N. B.

I cannot, as did Prof. Silliman, declare my signature thereto a forgery, but there are some mitigating circumstances attending this matter which if understood, would soften down somewhat the *glaring violation* of ethical regulations, by which we profess to be governed, as set forth by N. B. in his communication.

I have no interest whatever, either '*by percentage on sales or otherwise*,' nor do I think I should 'be enrolled as the *supporter and advocate of quacks*,' for no one can look upon them with more contempt than myself, and during a practice of nearly *forty years* I have ever used what little influence I possessed to place them in their true light.

And now allow me to tell you the true state of this case, and then censure as you may judge proper.

Some two or three years ago Mr. Fredk. Ayres, who was then a respectable merchant of this town, gave me a box of these pills, together with the formula, stating that they were got up by his brother, who was a physician in New Hampshire, with a request that I would use them in my practice, which I did, without the least suspicion of anything like quackery being attached to it, for the articles used in the composition were the *active principles* extracted from the *grosser matters*, which we are all in the habit of using for this purpose. I supposed from the certificates of the chemists who had analyzed the articles, that everything was legitimate, and we were to have what I thought an improvement on the old comp. aloetic pill.

I used the medicine as desired, and was pleased with the effects, believing it would ultimately supersede the unrefined and coarser articles now recommended in the books.

Mr. Ayres requested that if I was satisfied with the opportunities I had had of the medicine being such as I would approve, I could make a little statement in writing, for the satisfaction of his brother, which I finally consented to; but it was not the one I afterwards saw in the *almanac*.

Now when I did this I acted in good faith, supposing that I was only doing an act of kindness to a man in good standing in the profession, nor was I undeceived until my attention was called to it by a friend who gave me one of the almanacs containing it. I have only to add to this already too long letter, that my first error, if so it may be called, will probably be my last, and I sincerely thank you for the number of your journal containing the strictures of N. B., calling my attention to the subject."

CALIFORNIA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A correspondent in San Francisco informs us that a Medical Society was formed by the profession of California, at a meeting held in San Francisco, in March last. The session was a most harmonious one, and the highest standard of qualifications for membership was adopted. We heartily congratulate the profession of California, and hope that their organization will prove a lasting and beneficial one. We learn also that Dr. E. S. Cooper has opened a class for medical instruction in San Francisco, to whom he lectures principally in the various departments of surgery. This is probably a first step towards eventually establishing a medical school in San Francisco. We hope our friends in California will keep us advised of their proceedings.

DR. JOSEPH PARRISH.

In reply to the inquiries of correspondents, we will say that Dr. Parrish, founder and former editor of the *REPORTER*, has returned from Europe in improved health. He has recently been invited by the Board of Managers of the Retreat for Imbecile Children, at Germantown, Philadelphia, to take charge of that institution, and has entered upon the duties of his appointment. This institution was started by Mr. Richards, some four years since, as an individual enterprise. Two years ago the patronage of the State was extended to it. In consequence, however, of having no medical head, it has not succeeded very well. It is now placed on an entirely new footing, and the medical management of the institution is confided to Dr. Parrish. We hope he may serve the cause of humanity in his new situation.

THE "MEDICAL REPORTER."

This journal, published at Westchester, Pa., the organ of the Chester and Delaware Co. Medical Societies, has been discontinued for the present. Dr. Wilmer Worthington, its late principal editor, requests us to make this announcement for the information of exchanges, coupled with an expression of thanks for the kindness and courtesy they have invariably shown him during the three years he has been connected with the press. We

part with the "Reporter" with great regret. It has been a high-toned and useful organ of a large and very respectable body of medical men.

TOO CHEAP!

An old doctor, "whose sands of life have nearly run out," residing in Jersey City, in this State, is possessed of a remedy that will cure consumption—at least so he says! Touched with a spirit of benevolence, he, à la "Rev. Dagnall," will send the prescription to any one who will make application to him and inclose—one shilling, only to pay postage! A consumptive lady of this city was recently jocosely advised to send for his prescription, as it would only cost a shilling. "Too cheap," she replied, "too cheap; that man must be a humbug!" The remedy is *Cannabis Indica*!

** We are indebted to the Hon. Geo. R. Robbins, member of Congress from New Jersey, for several public documents of interest to the medical man. Some of these we hope to be able to notice. To Dr. W. J. C. Duhamel, of Washington City, we are also indebted for public documents.

✎ Prof. Walshe, of King's College, London, recently told his class, in an introductory lecture, that for a work on the practice of medicine, they had to cross the Atlantic, as he regarded the work of our countryman, Prof. Geo. B. Wood, of Philadelphia, as superior to any published in Great Britain. Such testimony from such a source, is flattering in the extreme.

✎ By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that the Philadelphia Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, is now open for the reception of patients. Its location is pleasant and healthy. Visiting Physician, Geo. J. Zeigler, M. D.; Consulting Physician, Prof. Sam'l Jackson, M. D.

✎ During the year 1855, as we learn from the Publishers' Circular, there were eighty-six works published or republished in this country on Medicine and Surgery.

✎ Sam'l S. and Wm. Wood, Medical Book Publishers in New York, have removed from 261 Pearl Street to 389 Broadway—a much more convenient location for those who go to New York to buy their medical books.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ALEXIS ST. MARTIN.

NEW YORK, May, 1856.

MR. EDITOR: The principal object of interest, in professional circles, in this city, during the past month, was the reappearance amongst us of that physiological wonder and unique specimen of the *vis medicatrix nature*, whom many supposed had years ago departed this life—Alexis St. Martin, who though now numbering fifty-two years, is yet “sound in wind, limb,” and *stomach*. The gratification experienced in beholding with one’s own eyes, this famous individual, of actually peering down into the depths of that wonderful crucible, the living human stomach, and having positive ocular demonstration of its secretions and its muscular motions, was akin to what one would be supposed to feel could he now take by the hand some of the famous sages of antiquity, hear the words of wisdom from their own lips, and feel the searching glance of their living eyes. I had first the pleasure of meeting him with a select company of some thirty professional gentlemen, at the house of one of our eminent brethren, and witnessing there a few of the experiments which formerly were performed under the supervision of Dr. Beaumont. They were, however, repeated for us rather to gratify our curiosity, at the sight of the man and his stomach, than to establish anything new. The first experiment was the swallowing of a glass of water, and immediately after emptying it out through the fistulous opening in the left side. This act cannot properly be called *vomiting*, as it is done by the subject merely leaning over to the left, and suffering the liquid to *run out*, aiding it by upward pressure upon the abdomen; it is of course done without any assistance from the gastric muscles themselves.

The fistulous opening is about an inch wide and an inch and a half long, situated to the left of the epigastrium, over the spot occupied by the cartilages of the lower ribs, some of which were carried away by the shot at the time of the accident. It is perfectly healed, the surrounding integument for about two inches in width being quite healthy, though presenting the appearance of skin after a burn, or the new skin over an ulcer. The loss of substance is in the anterior wall of the stomach at this part, and the opening is kept closed by the falling against it like a valve of the corresponding portion of the posterior wall, which, indeed, often protrudes through the opening to a considerable extent. No other defence against an inconvenient hernia of the mucous membrane is maintained, than the constant wearing of a loosely folded silk handkerchief, which serves also to absorb the gastric juice, which exudes from the protruding portion of the inner coat. This fluid may be distinctly seen forming upon the exposed surface of the membrane (somewhat like perspiration on the skin), and trickling down as it collects in drops. The membrane is here of a brighter red than in the other parts, doubtless owing to its exposure to the air. When the opening is distended

by introducing the fingers, or a speculum, and a strong ray of light is allowed to fall through it, nearly the whole of the interior cavity may be distinctly observed, with the movements of the muscular fibres.

At the interview above alluded to, a piece of veal, about a cubic inch, girdled by a string, was pushed through the opening by a probe, and carried down into the cavity, the opposite end of the string being allowed to hang outside. While the company improved the opportunity offered by the hospitable host to experiment upon the digestive powers of their own stomachs with such articles as oysters, ice creams, fruits, &c., St. Martin quietly reposed upon a sofa, while the veal was being dissolved in his stomach, also for our gratification. When our palates and appetites had become satisfied we returned to him, and the string being drawn out, the veal was reduced to about half its size, and the remainder appeared much softened in texture.

These were all the experiments performed that evening, though a volley of questions were put by the company, and replied to patiently by the subject or by his custodian, Dr. Bunting, as each question referred to personal or physiological points of interest. St. Martin appeared to suffer little or no inconvenience from this intermeddling, though it was stated by Dr. Bunting that a too long continuance, or too frequent repetition of the experiments disturbs him considerably, and great care has to be taken that he does not rebel entirely, or that his health, now perfectly sound, does not suffer. He is a small statured, black haired, sharp-eyed French Canadian, a hard working wood chopper, and has been induced by Dr. Bunting, by engagements for his family's support, to leave his home and go with him to Europe for the inspection of the trans-Atlantic savans. It is supposed that scientific and pecuniary profit are mingled in the agreement between them. It is to be hoped that full justice will be done to the whole subject of the physiology of digestion by the thorough examination of this, the only case of the kind ever presented, and the like of which we never hope to look upon again.

At a subsequent occasion, in the theatre of the New York Hospital, opportunity was afforded for testing the temperature of the stomach. A thermometer tube was inserted deep through the opening, and in four minutes it was marked, and being afterwards applied to the scale, showed 101°. Soon after this, a bougie was introduced for the purpose of drawing off some of the gastric juice, giving us thus an opportunity of actually seeing, touching, and tasting, a fluid which no art of man has ever yet been able to equal for its power, and yet, remarkable for its absence of striking properties, and only in this way to be obtained in indubitable purity. About half an ounce flowed through the tube, and was received in a vial. It was of a very light straw color, odorless, had a very slightly sweet taste, and a consistency of very thin syrup. It ran out very freely, though a small amount only was drawn, as that operation was said to produce more unpleasant effects than most others. Any substance introduced into the stomach, whether digestible or otherwise, excites an immediate flow of the fluid, while, when the stomach is empty, none is secreted. Hence the facility of obtaining it even when a bougie is introduced. At the time of these last experiments, St. Martin had eaten

nothing for five and a half hours, yet the fluid became abundant upon the introduction of the indigestible instrument. The physiological inference from this fact is very clear, viz : that the stomach will attack everything that enters it with all its energy, and pour out its streams of living juices upon friend and foe alike ; the former it disposes of more or less quickly, while, with the latter, the contest is prolonged, until, wearied out, the indignant organ expels it from its presence with more or less of suffering from its fruitless over-exertion.

It is to be regretted that no facilities were presented for a thorough chemical examination of the fluid thus obtained, as well as to observe further the direct action of the stomach upon its contents ; but the circumstances under which the subject visits New York, seem to be such as to render so minute an investigation impossible.

The accident which resulted in this interesting condition, occurred in 1822, and the first experiments were made by Dr. Beaumont, in 1825. Dr. B. died some five years ago, and, for several years before that event, St. Martin had declined further exhibition of himself, and, in fact, we were told by Dr. Bunting, that until the present time, three persons only had been admitted to the great privilege of witnessing the phenomena, of whom Dr. Beaumont and Dr. Lovell, Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, were two, and the other, I believe, was a physician in Washington. It is now in contemplation, to make a more public exhibition of the case, and by lectures and experiments, to "raise the wind" from the stomach to put into the pocket. Europe, however, is to be the principal theatre of operation.

Among the physiological questions which arose during the contemplation of the case was this, whether the *appetite* of the man would be as thoroughly appeased by feeding him through this *extra mouth*, as *per vias naturales* ; or, whether the pleasures of the palate were to be regarded as essential to the entire satisfaction of the feeling of hunger. That persons laboring under constriction of the oesophagus, or inability to swallow or retain food, from other cause, may be for months supported by the injection of food into the rectum, is a well known fact ; but the question presented to us here, is a different one ; it is, whether a man in perfect health, like St. Martin, in whom the demand for food is unimpaired, would be as well nourished, and his sense of hunger as effectually allayed, by being habitually fed through the fistulous opening, without the intervention of his gustatory nerves ; in other words, to what extent is the function of those nerves necessary to the full and complete performance of digestion and nutrition, irrespective of mastication and insalivation of the food. To this question, briefly put, Dr. Bunting replied, that St. Martin, if fed wholly in that way, would not be satisfied with the same amount of food as would be sufficient if imbibed by the process of deglutition. To what extent this idea has been investigated was not stated, and the answer appeared to have been based upon supposition, rather than actual experiment.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL—EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

I have spoken of several new medical institutions recently set on foot in this city. The present month has witnessed the reopening, on greatly enlarged and improved scales, of two others. First, the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, which, since its establishment, has administered relief to over 50,000 patients, was removed to a tasteful and commodious edifice on 2d Avenue, at the inauguration of which, the venerable Dr. Delafield, one of its original founders, thirty-six years ago, delivered an excellent address, and was followed by Rev. Dr. Bethune, in his usual felicitous style, with an earnest appeal in behalf of the charity.

On the 3d inst., the hospital department of the city almshouse was opened, in an elegant new structure, with greatly enlarged and improved accommodations, at Bellevue, which is on the East River, at the foot of 23d Street, by an address from Dr. B. W. McCready, one of the Visiting Physicians. His remarks were replete with information and valuable statistics. This institution, which was formerly a bone of political contention, tossed almost annually from one party to another, *without reference to the good of the patients*, is now under the same kind of professional supervision as almost all other large hospitals, having a large and strong staff of visiting physicians and surgeons, the advantage of which cannot be more clearly expressed than in the following forcible language of the orator of the occasion:—

“So far, gentlemen, as to our views and expectations, but what has been the effect of the changes in the medical department on those who are most deeply concerned, on the destitute sick who have been confided to our management? For twenty years previous to that change, the average annual mortality of the Institution was twenty per cent. Since that change, in 1848, the average mortality was reduced to 16 per cent., in 1849 to 13. From that time, the medical management has been exclusively under the supervision of the Visiting Physician and surgeons, and, notwithstanding that the number of patients has nearly doubled what it was in 1847, the mortality has been diminished to an average of 10 per cent. In this period, the last six years, 35,088 patients have been under treatment in the hospital. Now, gentlemen, look at this matter in what light you may, scrutinize it as you please, make every allowance and deduction that the most ingenious criticism will enable you to make, and yet, the great fact stands out, nearly 600 lives saved per annum! nearly 600 human beings who would otherwise have been consigned to an untimely tomb, preserved for the enjoyments, the trials, and the labors of life. What a mass of misery and suffering prevented! Nay, if we believe what is an indubitable fact, that faults of omission are almost equally criminal with faults of commission, that when a human being is suffered to die, whose life might have been saved, the responsibility must rest somewhere, either with individuals or upon the community. What a mass of crime prevented! In six years, 3,500 lives saved—3,500 murders hindered! Is not that something of which all who have been connected with the present organization of the hospital, whether it be the members of the Common Council, who originated it, or the Board of Governors who have perfected it, and carried it out, or the Medical Board who have been their instruments, is not that something, I say, in which we can all rejoice? something, regarding which, we can feel with pride that we have deserved well of the community?

“With enlarged space, with improved ventilation, may we not hope that a still further saving of human life may be effected?—that with the additional

facilities wisely and kindly granted us by the Board of Governors, that the number of students who seek practical information at our hospital may be increased?—that from it the blessing of sound practical medical instruction may be scattered broadcast through the State and the country, and that Bellevue, pre-eminent as it is in its extent, and the beauty and salubrity of its site, may be equally pre-eminent in the successful cultivation of medical science, and the relief of human suffering?"

Respectfully yours,

J. GOTHAM, JR., M. D.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological Observations for April, made at the State Lunatic Asylum, Trenton, N. J. Latitude N. 40° 15'; Longitude E. 2° 12' 51".

THIS month, though esteemed a fickle coquette, has charms peculiarly her own.

"A timid, blushing maiden,
With downcast, tearful eyes,
In her hand an open rosebud
Perfumed by dewy sighs.

Oft advancing, oft retreating,
She has won our hearts the while,
And we cannot choose but love her
For her tear-drops and her smile."

It has been a colder month than any April in eight years. The lowest point attained by the barometer, 29.20 in., occurred on the 21st, simultaneously with a violent gale from the N. E. The next lowest point, 29.30 in., was simultaneous with the tornado of the 12th, and unattended by rain in any estimable quantity. This tornado seems to have commenced on the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, and pursuing an east-southeasterly course, to have passed off the Jersey coast in Monmouth and Burlington counties. It did not assume the character of a tornado till it arrived at about the middle of Ohio. "Between Akron and Canton it swept away powerful forest trees as if they had been rotten saplings." It destroyed many churches, and tossed barns and dwelling-houses about like mere toys in a child's hand. In Philadelphia alone, the damage done by unroofing houses, etc., is estimated to exceed \$100,000. It seems to have been about twelve hours travelling from the lake to the ocean, which it reached about 10½ o'clock P. M. From the time it partook of the character of a tornado it moved at the rate of about seventy miles an hour. At this point the wind behaved very rudely, though no damage ensued.

Grass began to start, in favored spots, on the 2d, and frogs were singing on the 3d. *Acer rubrum* was in blossom on the 9th, and *Narcissus* on the 12th. The last visible snow and ice disappeared on the 13th. *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, *Draba verna*, and *Taraxacum* were in blossom on the 18th; *Anemone* on the 23d; *Hepatica* and *Viola* on the 24th; *Magnolia* on the 27th; *Antennaria* and *Cerasus* on the 28th; and *Persica* on the 29th.

Tabular View of Thermometrical and Barometrical Results.

		Maximum height.	Minimum height.	Mean height.	Maximum daily mean.	Minimum daily mean.	Maximum daily range.	Minimum daily range.	Mean daily range.	Monthly mean.
Therm'ter,	Sunrise,	27th : 59°	1st : 22°	42°	29th : 63°	1st : 33°	28th : 37°	21st : 2°	18°	52°
	2 o'clock P. M.	28th : 82°	1st : 40°	60°						
	Sunset,	28th : 74°	1st : 38°	54°						
Barometer,	Sunrise,	1st : 30.30 in.	22d : 29.40 in.	29.80 in.						
	2 o'clock P. M.	1st : 30.30 in.	21st : 29.30 in.	29.77 in.			32th : 40 in.	0.6 days.	.04 inches.	29.776 inches.
	Sunset,	1st : 30.15 in.	21st : 29.20 in.	29.76 in.						
Correspond. attached therm'ter,	Sunrise,	1st : 63°	22d : 68°	66°						
	2 o'clock P. M.	1st : 70°	21st : 72°	70°			12th : 6°			
	Sunset,	1st : 71°	21st : 72°	70°					4°	65°

Degree of Humidity, Saturation being 1000.

Hygrometer,	Sunrise,	14th and 16th. 1,000.	6th : .683 in.	.850 in.					
	2 o'clock P. M.	21st : .600 in.	29th : .288 in.	.583 in.	21st : .425 in.	29th : .635 in.			
	Sunset,	20th : .944 in.	18th : .461 in.	.651 in.					
								.297 inch.	.403 inch.

PLUVIOMETER.			PREVAILING WINDS.
Date.	Inches.	Accompanying Winds.	
2d.	.20	S.	S. W. prevailed 10 days.
15th.	.20	W.	N. W. " 6 "
17th.	.15	S. E.	N. E. " 3 "
20th.	.25	N. E.	S. " 2 "
21st.	.55	N. E.	W. " 2 "
23d.	.05	S. W.	S. E. " 1 day.
24th.	.30	N. E.	
25th.	.30	N. E.	

Amount of rain, 2.00 in.

Clear sky prevailed 15 days.

The following table shows the comparative temperature of April for the last eight years:—

Year.	Maxima.	Minima.	Media.
1849	72°	26°	55°
1850	75°	29°	49°
1851	71°	39°	50°
1852	67°	32°	46°
1853	80°	36°	55°
1854	84°	30°	53°
1855	87°	26°	53°
1856	82°	22°	52°

Average temperature of the last eight Aprils was 51½.

M. E. WINCHELL.

May 1st, 1856.

* * A full notice of the sickness and death of the late Dr. John C. Warren, of Boston, prepared for this number, is crowded out. It will appear in the July number, which will also contain an obituary and portrait of the late Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M. D.

✎ In consequence of a mistake, our Philadelphia letter did not reach us in season for this number. It may be expected regularly hereafter.

✎ Subscribers are reminded that *after July*, unpaid subscriptions on the current volume will be two dollars and fifty cents.

June 11 1856



J. Roney Bech

Engraved by H. B. Hall from a Daguerrotype.
by H. M. Davis.